

END COLUMN
Chance
misses
to take
a stand

LAST WEEK'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
437,000

No 63,260

FRIDAY DECEMBER 9 1988

● 100,000 feared dead in earthquake ● Gorbachov flies home

Grief as cities turn to rubble



Grief, as Armenian women in the town of Spitak weep for their lost relatives after the earthquake in which thousands died.

The world sends aid as thousands seek refuge

● The Soviet Union was in mourning last night as estimates of the Armenian earthquake death toll rose hourly.

● Tens of thousands are feared dead and entire cities have been razed, leaving uncounted victims buried.

● President Mikhail Gorbachov cut short his New York visit and postponed his London one to fly back to Moscow.

● Aid and offers of help poured in and a specialist London fire brigade team left to help in the search for survivors.

By Our Foreign Staff

The Soviet Union struggled with the enormity of the Armenian earthquake disaster last night as estimates of the number of casualties rose with the passing hours.

President Mikhail Gorbachov cut short his New York visit and flew home, saying: "I have to go."

There was no clear picture of the death toll, but with several Armenian towns and villages wiped out and more victims being pulled from the rubble by the hour, estimates of the number of dead range from 50,000 to 80,000 and could be much higher.

One Russian doctor, Sara Sarafin, speaking on BBC Radio from the Armenian capital of Yerevan, estimated that 100,000 people had been killed. She said: "It is a very terrible situation in the hospitals... there are many, many people and many babies with broken bones."

In some places the earth just opened up and whole buildings disappeared into the fissures, according to reports from the scene.

Through Moscow said it would try to manage disaster relief on its own, the Soviet Embassy in London appealed for financial help from the public as well as medical supplies, stressing the money would be funnelled directly to the Armenians. Offers of help and messages of support came from all around the world in response to the desperate situation.

Last night a specialist team from the London fire brigade left for Armenia taking infrared imaging equipment, designed to find buried bodies.

Mrs Thatcher offered her deepest sympathy for the victims in a letter to President Gorbachov, saying she fully understood his desire to return home. She urged him to make his cancelled visit to Britain, which had been due to start on Monday, "as soon as fresh dates can be found".

The force of the earthquake was felt seven minutes after it began in the offices of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh.

President Reagan offered the resources of the United States and Mrs Reagan made a 13-minute telephone call to the departing Soviet leader and his wife expressing her sorrow at the disaster.

Soviet military surgeons rushed to the region were "carrying out a series of difficult operations, including on children, in field conditions," Soviet Army Gen. Vladimir Arkhipov told the Tass news agency.

Donations to the rescue appeal should be sent to a special account at the Moscow Narodny Bank Ltd, 81 King William Street, London EC4P 4JF. The account number is 140101-6ARM.

Reports.....8, 9
Parliament.....12
Collision zone.....14
Leading article.....15

The less seriously injured were being moved out on a helicopter shuttle from the devastated cities of Leninakan, Spitak and Kirovakan to Soviet Georgia.

Official media reports said the earthquake levelled all but one of eight schools in Spitak, a city of 16,000 people, and that virtually no multi-story buildings were left without serious damage in Leninakan, a city of 250,000 people on the Turkish border.

Remarkably, casualties across the border in Turkey were light with only four deaths. In contrast survivors from Leninakan said it was "just like scenes from a war film".

A newspaper report said soldiers had pulled the bodies of more than 50 children from the ruins a Leninakan school. Blood donations were being

collected at many points in Moscow, and cities including Gorky, Chelyabinsk, Kuybyshev had sent most of their aid supplies to Armenia. Tons of blankets, field kitchens, tents and medicine were pouring into the region.

A group of 78 doctors left Moscow for Armenia late on Wednesday and a second brigade of neurosurgeons headed for Yerevan yesterday. Soldiers were setting up tent cities for evacuees from devastated regions, and working to restore electricity and water supplies.

An official at the Armenian foreign ministry said unofficial figures showed at least 2,000 people had been treated in hospital and "the number is rising all the time".

A local Armenian editor said 30 to 40 per cent of Leninakan, which has a population of 200,000, had been destroyed. Kirovakan, further east, sustained less damage.

Komsomolskaya Pravda's correspondents said all buildings taller than eight storeys had been destroyed in Leninakan. Only buildings of two or three storeys and small houses remained intact.

People wandered stunned through city streets, many gathering around campfires in the cold weather.

Correspondents for the government newspaper Izvestia reported huge cracks on the roads leading to Spitak, a town of 30,000 described as "utterly destroyed".

"We saw the first cars full of injured coming into the outskirts of Yerevan," the newspaper said. Another paper, the Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya, said that Armenia's nuclear power plant near Yerevan, was undamaged and operating normally. An official at the earthquake laboratory of the Institute of Earth Sciences Institute in Moscow said the quake was "among the strongest ever seen in the Soviet Union".



Despair, as survivors contemplate the devastation of their homes, a fraction of the damage caused across the Soviet republic.

Thatcher sympathy for Soviet victims

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Mrs Margaret Thatcher urged President Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday to reschedule his postponed visit to Britain "as soon as fresh dates can be found".

In a letter to the Soviet leader expressing her deepest sympathy with the victims of the Armenian earthquake and saying that she fully understood his desire to return home, she applauded Mr Gorbachov's speech to the United Nations in New York.

Calling his proposed cut of 500,000 in Soviet conventional forces "an important step towards securing a better balance of forces in Europe", Mrs Thatcher wrote: "It holds out new hope - and makes it all the more important that we should meet soon to discuss the way ahead." She ended her letter "with warm regards".

Mrs Thatcher angered Labour MPs in the Commons, however, by saying the Soviet

troop-cut proposal had to be kept in perspective: they would still have a 2:1 superiority over Nato strengths.

The Russians would have 41,500 tanks as opposed to Nato's 16,500; 35,000 artillery pieces compared with Nato's 14,000; and 7,400 aircraft compared with 4,000 in Nato.

"There will still be a major asymmetry in the Soviet Union's favour," she said. "There is still a lot of tough negotiating to do."

Mr Kinnock accused her later of "rambling off into Cold War blank verse".

Though ministers were disappointed that Mr Gorbachov and his wife will no longer be visiting Britain as planned next week, Mrs Thatcher ensured that the Government lost little in publicity.

Hearing discussion of Mr Gorbachov's decision to fly

President cuts short US visit

From Charles Brenner
New York

President Gorbachov cut short his New York visit and flew back to Moscow yesterday, saying "I have to be there" to manage the aftermath of the Caucasus earthquake.

Leaving Kennedy Airport a day after his history-making speech to the United Nations, the Soviet leader said the earthquake "was extremely severe and has had extremely grave consequences. There was a great deal of destruction and a great loss of human life, so I have to go home urgently."

Mr Gorbachov is expected to fly straight on to Armenia. A commission headed by Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Prime Minister, was already in Armenia supervising the operation.

The Soviet leader, who

Back-dated test cleared

The law lords yesterday supported the police practice of back-calculating blood and breath tests for alcohol in a driver's body. They dismissed a driver's appeal against a High Court ruling that such evidence was inadmissible. A blood sample four hours 20 minutes after a crash showed him below the limit. But back-calculations showed him probably above the limit.

Back-dating cleared, page 2; Law Report, page 36

£1.7m bail

Four men associated with the collapsed Barlow Clowes investment group, including Mr Peter Clowes, were remanded on bail with sureties totalling £1.7 million after they were charged with theft and other offences.

Photograph 2, details 23

Arms gauntlet

The Nato foreign ministers, at their talks in Brussels yesterday, took up the gauntlet thrown down by President Gorbachov at the United Nations General Assembly, by proposing a halving of conventional "offensive weapons" in Europe.

Page 7



Print-out of disaster: How seismographs in Edinburgh recorded the earthquake, over 2,000 miles away.

EBEL
Les Architectes du Temps

1911
Steel and yellow metal, water resistant 30 m.

For illustrated catalogues and list of exclusive EBEL concessionaires, please contact EBEL at Liberty House, 222 Regent Street, London W1R 5DE. Telephone 01-439 7539/01-437 1927/01-437 3959

INDEX

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Home News | 2,3,5,6 |
| Overseas | 7-10 |
| Business | 22-31 |
| Sport | 38-40 |
| Arts | 18 |
| Births, marriages, deaths | 17 |
| Business to business | 35 |
| City Diary | 25 |
| Court & social | 16 |
| Crosswords | 20,22 |
| Diary | 14 |
| Entertainments | 20 |
| Features | 13,14,19 |
| Information | 20 |
| Law Report | 36 |
| Leading articles | 15 |
| Letters | 15 |
| Motoring | 33 |
| Obituary | 16 |
| Parliament | 12 |
| Sateroom | 6 |
| Science Report | 16 |
| TV & Radio | 21 |
| Weather | 22 |

☆☆☆☆☆

NEWS ROUNDUP

Ryan seeks libel cash from Press

Father Patrick Ryan, the Irish priest who has so far eluded British attempts to extradite him, is seeking substantial libel damages from British newspapers, including The Times.

Circus cub's death

Mr Richard Chipperfield, of the Chipperfield Circus family, admitted yesterday that one of his lion cubs died painfully three weeks after it arrived in England from Taiwan.

MP loses her house

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, a former shadow minister, has had her home repossessed by the Nationwide Anglia building society. Bailiffs have changed the locks at the large detached house on the outskirts of Crewe, Cheshire.

Soldier shot dead

A soldier was shot dead on Wednesday in a training camp accident - just a week after returning from a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. Private Robert Riseborough, aged 24, from Harleston, Norfolk, was due to marry in two weeks.

Princess in secret trip

The Princess of Wales made a secret visit to the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham to see the wife of Mr James Teacher, the whisky millionaire. Mrs Chloe Teacher, aged 43, is on a life support machine after suffering multiple injuries in a fall while out with the Quorn Hunt in Leicestershire 10 days ago.

Langan file closed

Police have closed their file on the fire at the home in Alphatone, Essex, of Peter Langan, the restaurateur, after his death in hospital. Detectives believe that Mr Langan, aged 47, who had been unconscious since suffering injuries in the fire on October 21, had started it himself.

Shipyard town launches its own rescue charter

The town of Sunderland yesterday launched its own attempt to secure a prosperous future in spite of the closure of its last shipyards. It came in the form of a 19 point charter for recovery issued by the Labour-controlled council but which attracted all-party support.

The Kent towns of Chatham, Gravesend, Gillingham and Strood have recovered from closures as crippling as Sunderland's to economic hardship in less than a decade (David Nicholson-Lord writes). Enterprise zone status, offering a holiday from rates and taxes, played a crucial role in their recovery.

Britain Bureau, the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as the local Northern Development Company, should be instructed to give priority to Sunderland as the location to which all investment enquiries should be first directed.

MoD urged to be more competitive

An all-party Commons committee yesterday urged the Ministry of Defence to abandon the system of awarding non-competitive contracts that had enabled defence contractors to make excess profits of up to £100 million over a three-year period.

Accused of £10m thefts



Christopher Newman, accused of £10m thefts, is seen here with Peter Clowes, former financial director of James Ferguson Holdings.

Lords clear back-dated drink tests

The police practice of back-calculating blood and breath tests to find out how much a motorist has been drinking yesterday won the support of the law Lords.

Mental patient's sterilization halted

The planned sterilization of a mentally handicapped woman aged 35 and said to have a mental age of four was yesterday halted by the Court of Appeal.

MPs to get pay rise of 6.9%

MPs are to receive pay rises of 6.91 per cent on January 1, ahead of the rate of inflation. But the Government is pegging pay increases for ministers to an average of 4.5 per cent to set an example to the public sector.

Table titled 'CABINET AND OTHER MAIN SALARIES' with columns for Current, Jan 89, and % rise. Rows include Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Cabinet Minister, etc.

Romantic winner in the House

Mr Hugo Hawley, Conservative MP for Walthamstow, has been voted the most romantic MP in Britain.

VHS advertisement for 'The Most Important Development in Home Video' featuring a VHS tape and the text 'HERE ARE 164 MORE POINTS OF VIEW... OUR SELECTED DEALERS.' Includes a list of dealers and their addresses.

Wheelchair designs 'make life a misery'

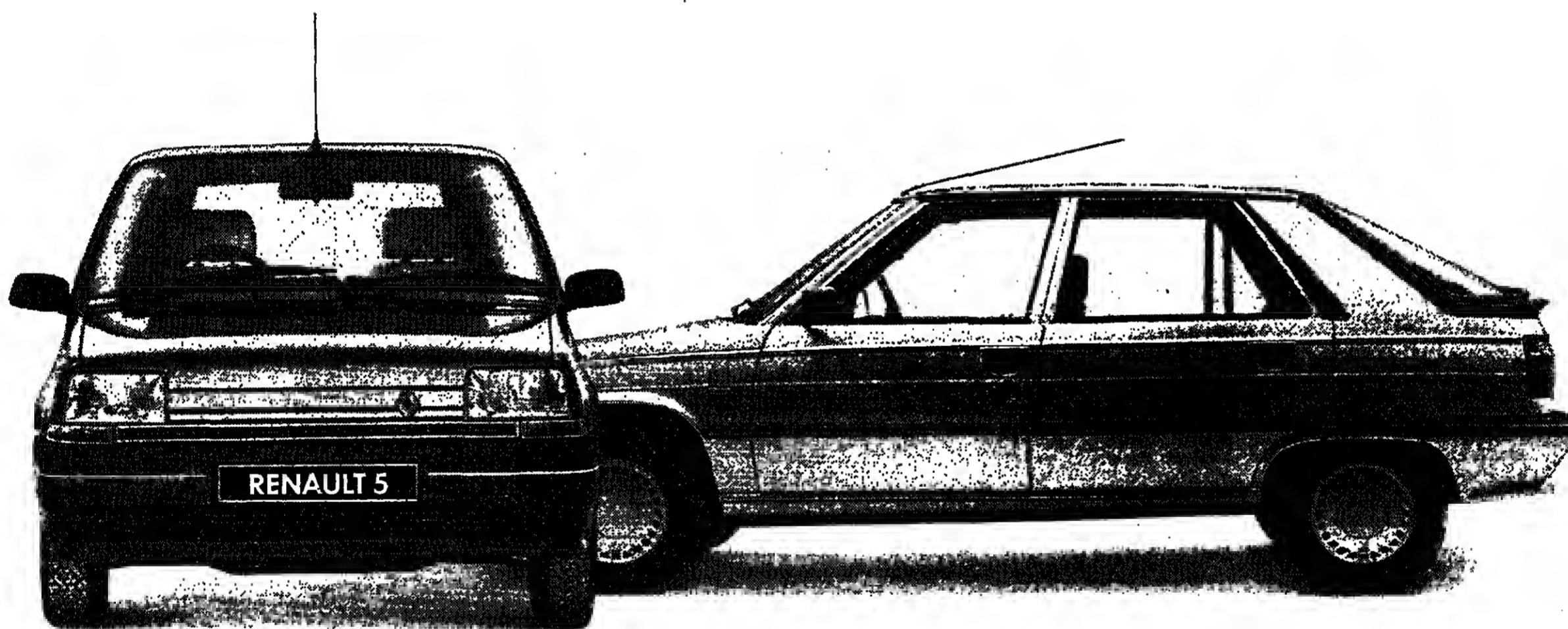
Many wheelchairs are so badly designed that they make the lives of their users a misery, the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs says.

DISPOSAL AUCTION NOTICE OF PERSIAN CARPETS, RUGS AND RUNNERS AND OTHER HAND KNOTTED EASTERN CARPETS AS CONFIRMED BY NCB BANK (NEDERLANDS CREDIT BANK). AUCTION ON SUNDAY 11th AT 3.30 PM.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Propo...', 'Doubt...', and 'Life for...'.

T
C
W
L
t
h
e
c
p
w
m
S
r
p
h
e
r
e
f
o
r
p
h
o
t
o
g
r
a
p
h
y
a
n
d
t
e
c
h
n
i
c
a
l
i
n
f
o
r
m
a
t
i
o
n
c
o
n
t
a
c
t
u
s
a
t
t
h
e
a
d
d
r
e
s
s
o
n
t
h
e
r
i
m
a
g
e

5, 9 OR 11 SHOPPING DAYS TO CHRISTMAS?



0% FINANCE OR £99 DOWN (11.6% APR) ON A NEW RENAULT 5, RENAULT 9 AND RENAULT 11.

Which new Renault would you like for Christmas? And how would you like to pay for it?

If you call in at your local Renault dealer before December 31st, you'll find he's nothing if not flexible.

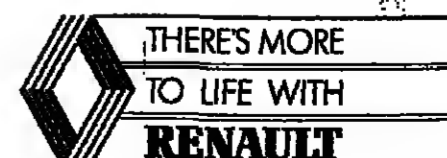
For a start, you can take your pick of any new Renault 5, 9 or 11. From the Renault 5 Campus (at just £5,095* a very acceptable stocking filler) to the £9,710* Renault 11 Turbo (top of many a Christmas list this year).

Then you can choose just how you'd like to pay - with either 0% finance over 2 years, or £99 deposit at 11.6% APR.

And whichever way you do it, at least you'll be sure of getting one thing you've always wanted for Christmas.

Visit your local dealer or phone 0800 400 415 (24 hours/free) for written credit details.

All Renault cars have a 12 month unlimited mileage warranty and 6 year anti-perforation warranty.



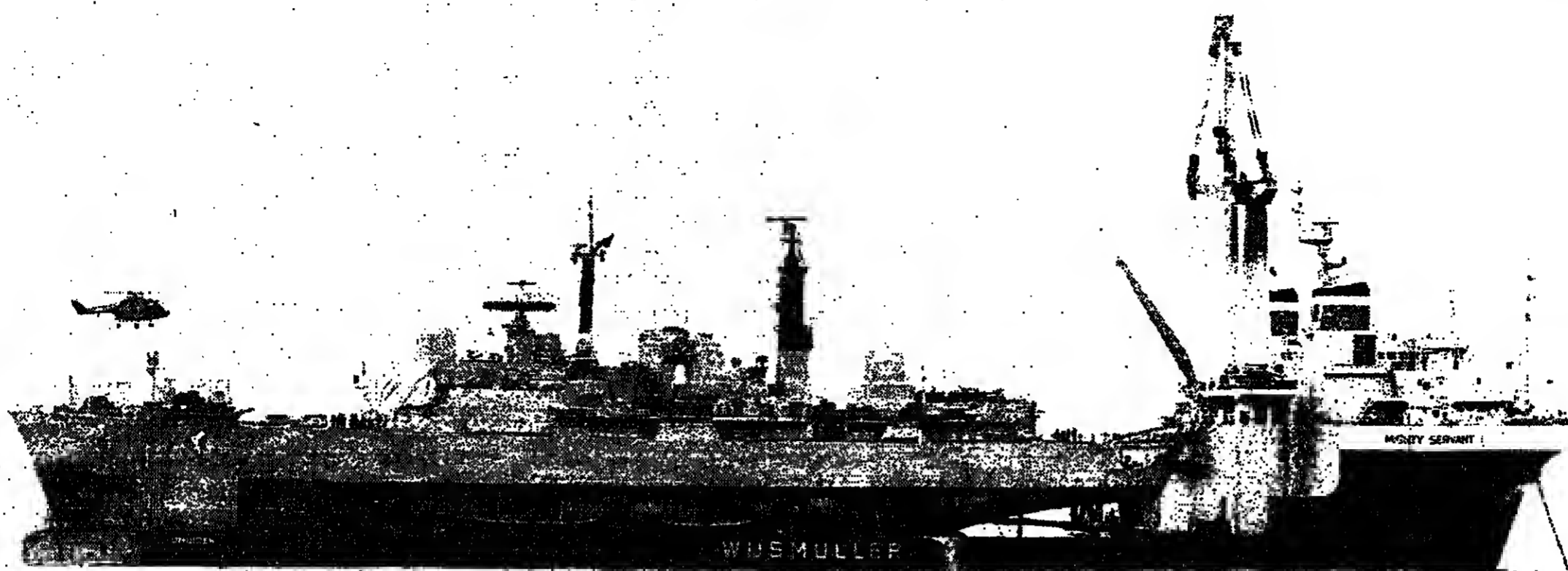
OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 31ST 1988

This offer is subject to credit status and applies to all new 5, 9 and 11's ordered and registered between 1st and 31st December 1988 (offer does not include Chevrolet titles or Isle of Man). Written quotations available on request from any Renault dealer (see Yellow Pages). Credit facilities provided by Renault Loan Ltd, 1955 House, Day Road, Chester, CH99 3AH. All prices correct at time of going to press. *Prices include 15% VAT, Car Tax, front/rear seat belts and sound system, number plates and delivery extra. Dealer price inc. vat on the road costs 5 Campus £5,095, 11 Turbo £9,710. RENAULT is a member of the Renault Group.

Don't miss...
Registered...
12 Month...
CAM...
12 Month...
Best for Cho...

Destroyer holed in the Gulf takes a slow boat home to Pompey

HARRY KEFR



HMS Southampton, the Royal Navy destroyer holed during a collision in the Gulf, arriving outside Portsmouth yesterday after a 3,000-mile trip which took more than a month.

The crippled vessel was brought in her home port piggy-back style, on Mighty Servant 1, a floating barge. The warship suffered an extensive gash in the side of her hull after she collided with the container ship Torbay three months ago while on Armilla patrol in the Gulf. Eleven crew were injured.

The Ministry of Defence has denied reports that repairs could cost up to £100 million but has refused to reveal what the bill will be.

It is not yet known which shipyard will carry out the work, although the recently privatized dockyard at Devonport, Devon, has offered to carry out the repairs.

HMS Southampton was anchored off Spithead while 26 metal slabs, which were welded to her hull for support during the trip, were removed.

City institution abandons education initiative Regional polytechnic setback

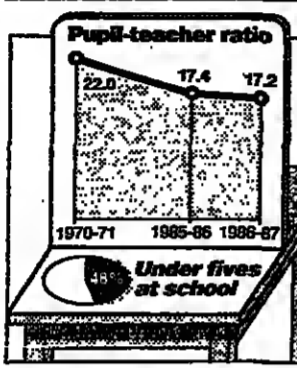
By Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

The City of London Polytechnic yesterday pulled out of plans to create a regional polytechnic serving London and East Anglia.

The Cambridgeshire College of Arts and Technology and the Essex Institute of Higher Education said they would press ahead with the new regional polytechnic but admitted the plan would be delayed.

Under a scheme announced earlier this year the two institutions, in Cambridge and Chelmsford, were to have merged with the City Polytechnic on April 1.

The Cambridgeshire college said yesterday the proposals for the new Polytechnic of East Anglia would be delayed by about six months. The City



An indication of the state of learning in the United Kingdom was provided by the Government's latest education statistics released yesterday (David Tyler writes). The figures for 1986-87 show that 23 per cent of sixth formers obtained at least one A level or the Scottish equivalent, 1 per cent more than in the previous year. After A levels, 262,000 students went on to achieve higher qualifications, including 139,000 first degrees or

equivalent. Educational institutions employed 657,000 full-time teaching staff, half of them graduates. There were 972,000 students in higher education, 42 per cent of them women. Education cost the country more than £19 billion. More than nine million school pupils were taught by half a million teachers, an average pupil-teacher ratio of 17.2. Education Statistics for the United Kingdom, 1988 edition (Stationery Office, £8.50).

Polytechnic would be welcome to join later if it reconsidered its position.

The decision to withdraw from the merger came after the City Polytechnic feared it would be forced to give up its teaching facilities at Moorgate and Tower Hill in the City to

pay for a new residential campus at Chelmsford.

Sources said the sum which the new Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council was prepared to provide to cover merger costs would leave the new regional polytechnic needing to find £30 million

from its own resources. "That just happens to be about the value of our site opposite the Tower of London", a senior source said.

At a meeting of the City Polytechnic's Court of Governors on Wednesday night, some members accused the

Government of wanting to move all students out of London.

The meeting adopted a resolution saying that it could not enter into the merger until the future of its City sites was secured.

Mr Mike Salmon, director of the Essex Institute of Higher Education, said last night: "We continue to believe in the benefits of the merger for all three institutions."

"In the circumstances we must give priority to establish an effective merger between CCAT and EIHE to create a polytechnic to play a full part in the development of the East Anglia region."

The University of London yesterday appointed Professor Stewart Sutherland, aged 47, as its forty-fifth vice-chancellor. He is principal of King's College London.

Prototype school test acclaimed

By Our
Education Reporter

A controversial scheme for testing pupils, which is widely regarded as a prototype for the Government's national curriculum, has produced a 20 per cent improvement in examination results, it is revealed today.

The London Borough of Croydon, which is Conservative controlled, said its system of standardized tests — measuring pupils against performance targets at the ages of 7, 11 and 14 and introduced in 1984 — had improved motivation among the pupils.

In an interview with The Times Educational Supplement, Mr Paul McGee, Croydon's chief schools inspector, said the average number of passes a pupil at the top three grades of GCSE had risen from 1.9 last year to 2.3 this summer.

The improvement in Croydon's result is 10 times better than the national increase in the number of pupils passing at grades A to C, which rose by only two per cent this year.

Mr McGee said: "We would argue that it had a lot to do with the way we have been persuading teachers towards targeted teaching."

A spokeswoman for the borough said the results reflected the efforts of teachers and pupils.

Goodman creates first Euro-airline

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The first pan-European airline, operating in the same livery from six countries, is being created by Air Europe. Deals have been signed with Spain and Norway and negotiations are at an advanced stage with France, West Germany and Italy.

The airline, part of Mr Harry Goodman's expanding International Leisure Group, will take stakes of up to 33 per cent in each of the new airlines, with the rest coming from banks, financial institutions and private investors. The airlines will all come under a holding company, Airlines of Europe, created in The Netherlands to oversee the operation and integrate services.

It is planned to begin charter flights from each of the countries involved next year and expand to scheduled services as soon as agreements can be reached with individual governments. Within three years the airline is expected to be bigger than many national flag carriers and be flying more than 60 aircraft.

Airlines throughout Europe have been drawing up plans for mergers and expansion in anticipation of the European single market in 1992 but Mr Goodman's initiative gives him a head start on rivals.

One of his aims is to bring down the cost of business travel, by using EC legislation

under which lower fares must be approved if they can be shown to be related to the cost of operation.

Already he has cut fares from Gatwick to Paris and Brussels, has approval to reduce them from Scandinavia and hopes to win approval soon on flights to Munich. The reductions have led to a boom in business travel on his airline, which is now operating regularly with more than 70 per cent of seats filled.

Air Europe has persuaded the Gatwick authorities to open a special business lounge which enables passengers without baggage to check in up to 15 minutes before departure.

Because up to a third of seats on its flights are now designated business class, the airline decided to offer holidaymakers travelling on the same aircraft when it is on charter the chance to upgrade to business class by paying £30-£80 extra.

"We have been amazed at the response", Mr Peter Smith, ILG's commercial director, said. "It seems many holidaymakers now expect the same level of service they get when travelling on business."

As part of its expansion the airline is taking delivery of three new McDonnell Douglas MD11 tri-jets, which will enable it to offer non-stop long-haul holidays to destinations such as Hawaii.

Teachers waste time keeping control of pupils

By David Tyler
Education Editor

Most secondary school teachers spend too much time keeping control in the classroom, with boys being more troublesome than girls, according to a new survey.

Teachers in six secondary schools in the West Midlands took part in the survey conducted by the British Educational Research Association, with 55 per cent reporting that they

experienced discipline problems. Six out of 10 women teachers reported problems, compared with five out of 10 male teachers.

About 20 per cent of their pupils were considered to be troublesome but both men and women regarded boys as being markedly more difficult than girls. The main problems identified by teachers were talking out of turn, 50 per cent; hindering other children, 17 per cent; and idleness and

slowness, 13 per cent. Fewer than 1 per cent of the teachers cited verbal abuse or physical aggression as problems. The survey said that although serious incidents did happen in schools, the overwhelming trouble was the high frequency of relatively trivial misbehaviour.

The Victoria and Albert museum plans an ambitious scheme costing £285,000 a year to guide pupils through the GCSE. It hopes to set up a

GCSE centre for pupils studying art and design, history, English literature, mathematics, science and technology, home economics, religious studies and music.

The museum would employ three GCSE teachers, seconded from secondary schools, who would work with five museum specialists.

British Educational Research Journal (Carfax Publishing, PO Box 25, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3UE).

CAMCORDERS

12 Months Interest Free Credit.

PANASONIC VHS CAMCORDER
Automatic, 2 Step High Speed Shutter. Includes Character Generator. Full Size Tape enables 4 hr Continuous Recording and Playback. Model NVM7.

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE £1299.99

AMSTRAD 'VIDEOMATIC' CAMCORDER
Point and Shoot Technique. Fixed Focal Length. Ultra Compact Design. Model VMC101.

INTEREST FREE £499.99

JVC VHS-C CAMCORDER
11 Functions Display. Variable High Speed Shutter. Automatic. Low Speed Zoom. Model JVC-500.

INTEREST FREE £1099.99

PHILIPS VHS CAMCORDER
Automatic Focusing. Interference Free Editing. Full Size Tape enables 4 hr Continuous Recording and Playback. Model VCR981.

INTEREST FREE £1199.99

MINOLTA VHS CAMCORDER
Fully Automatic Operation. 24 x Zoom Range. Auto Focus. Frame Selection. Multi-Dimensional AF System. Model VCR981.

INTEREST FREE £1199.99

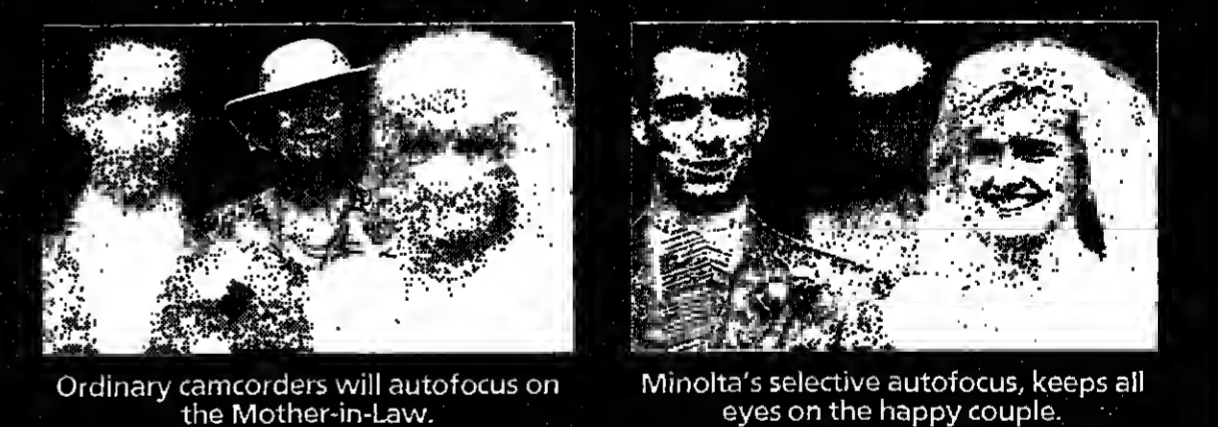
PHILIPS VHS CAMCORDER
Automatic Focusing. Interference Free Editing. Full Size Tape enables 4 hr Continuous Recording and Playback. Model VCR981.

INTEREST FREE £1199.99

Best for Choice. Even better for Value.

LASKYS HAVE A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF STORES. CALL 01-200 0200 FOR DETAILS

FOCUS ON THE DIFFERENCE



Ordinary camcorders will autofocus on the Mother-in-Law. Minolta's selective autofocus, keeps all eyes on the happy couple.

The Minolta Movie C-50E is a VHS 'C' camcorder with so many advanced, intelligent features, designed to give you better pictures more easily.

Intelligent selective autofocus
On a shot like the wedding picture above right, or when you're shooting action like the skateboarder, the Minolta Movie C-50E switches from its normal autofocus target frame to a wider one. Automatically. It's the world's first camcorder autofocus system that keeps the main subject sharp, even when it's not centre frame. Only Minolta can do this!

Perfect pictures as close as you want
Unlike other camcorders, the C-50E lets you get as close as you like to your subject (the surface of this paper for example) and still get perfectly focused pictures.

And with the advanced dual-area autoexposure system, combining both spot and average metering, together with computer controlled white balance — the C-50E gives perfectly exposed colour shots too — when ordinary camcorders can let you down.

Another world first — interchangeable autofocus lenses
The Minolta Movie C-50E has a powerful 6 x zoom lens as standard. As optional extras, there's the flexibility of four interchangeable bayonet mount lenses. These will give an amazing 24 x zoom across the range, that'll take in all the family, to the smile on the bride's face. And what's more, which ever lens is used, you still have the benefits of perfect autofocus. The C-50E has many more features, too many to list here, so go round to your Minolta Dealer and he'll give you the full picture. You'll see the difference.

Comes complete and ready to shoot, in a professional carrying case, around £1,199. Interchangeable lenses from £59.99 to £99.99



Minolta Movie C-50E



N-plants may be in clear over cancers

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A virus may be the hidden cause of leukaemia in children who live near nuclear power stations, according to the results of a scientific study published today.

The research suggests that the disease is not due to radiation effects from the stations, but to an epidemic of an unidentified viral infection brought into isolated communities many years ago by outsiders.

Children living in remote areas such as Dounreay and Sellafield may be more vulnerable to such infections than the general population, because there is lower natural immunity, and leukaemia could be a rare side-effect. Dr Leo Kinlen, director of the cancer epidemiology unit at Edinburgh University, says in *The Lancet*.

The building of the two nuclear reprocessing plants led to population increases in nearby Thurso and Seascale in the 1950s. A possible result was that incomers caused epidemics of viral illnesses.

Dr Kinlen has produced evidence which supports his theory. In a study funded by the Cancer Research Cam-

paign, he found a "cluster" of childhood leukaemia cases in Glenrothes, Fifé, the only other rural area suitable for comparison.

Glenrothes is nowhere near a nuclear plant, but was an isolated district that had a large population increase in the same period.

Between 1951 and 1967, seven Glenrothes children under five years old died of leukaemia, compared with an expected 1.49 cases. There were also more cases among older children than expected.

Dr Kinlen makes it clear that the town no longer has an excess of leukaemia cases.

Viruses have long been suspected as a cause of childhood leukaemia, although there has been a lack of conclusive evidence.

Some doctors believe that the disease could be triggered by the effects of a virus on the human immune system.

Results of independent studies have shown that levels of radiation near power stations are too low to explain local clusters of leukaemia. Dr Kinlen says: "Since no evidence for any particular alter-

native explanation has been found, there will be continued public suspicion that radiation is possible.

"A viral cause for childhood leukaemia deserves renewed attention, including further investigations in situations of large-scale population mixing."

Dr John Galloway, of the Cancer Research Campaign, said yesterday: "These findings have important implications for the causes of leukaemia, particularly those found away from nuclear power stations, which are presumably the vast majority."

"However, people must not get the idea that leukaemia is infectious. Dr Kinlen suggests that it could be a rare, abnormal response to a common infection."

The world's first leukaemia virus research centre will be opened today at Glasgow University by Ian Botham, who raised its building costs during a sponsored walk from John n' Groats to Land's End.

Scientists will study the role of viruses in influencing the development of leukaemia.

Six-year-old puts seven Santas to the test



Christmas came early for Emma Briggs, aged 6, yesterday when she helped to judge the Father Christmas Olympics. The morning of fun for 50 children from Kingsmead School, Hackney, east London, was organized by the Marriott Hotel, west London, and the London Taxi Drivers' Fund. Santas from stores throughout the capital were put through their paces at the hotel while Steve Overt ensured fair play. The winning Father Christmas was Brian Taylor, from Alders of Croydon.

'Rediscovered' Florentine bust of Christ fetches £825,000

A late sixteenth-century marble bust of Christ, which recently turned up in the Republic of Ireland having vanished without trace for a century, was sold for £825,000 at Sotheby's in London yesterday to Danny Katz, the dealer, against an estimate of up to £60,000.

Attributed to Giovanni Battista Caccini, a contem-

SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

porary of Giambologna, the bust, it now appears, was the victim of a sell-off from the Florentine church of Santa Maria Novella in 1876. It was

bought by one John Leslie, who removed it to his newly-built home at Castle Leslie, Co Monaghan, where it has remained since. Mr Leslie's inventory tells how he acquired the bust directly from the church when it was being altered, and that he had assumed it was by Francavilla, a lesser artist.

It was sold yesterday by Sir

John Leslie, the great grandson of the collector, achieving a world record for the artist.

Charles Dickens's double-barrelled sporting gun, sold with evidence that his marksmanship lagged far behind his penmanship, fetched £5,720, double its estimate, also at Sotheby's. It was given to the author by his biographer, Forster. At Christie's sale at Doo-

ington Park, Leicestershire the record for the humble Austin-Healey was broken by £90,000 when a 1962 soft-top Works Rally Coupé fetched £137,500. A Mercedes Benz, 300 SL light-weight gullwing coupé, dated 1955 to 1956 fetched £308,000, another record.

Jewellery owned by Ailsa Mellon Bruce, sister of Paul Mellon, the great American

collector of English art, was sold at Christie's in New York on Wednesday night.

An Italian collector paid top price of \$319,000 dollars (£172,400) for a diamond fringe necklace signed by Van Clef & Arpels, while a Boston dealer paid £156,500 for a fancy coloured diamond and near-colourless diamond necklace.

Weekend food prices Salmon rivals cod for fish value

Fresh fish supplies are good this weekend and haddock makes a welcome return, even at about £2.60 a lb. Smaller block haddock cost about £1.60 a lb, while cod is about £2.30 a lb and there are excellent cod cutlets at about £2.20 a lb. Sprats at 75p a lb and firm, sweet huss at £1.20 are a bargain. Herring and mackerel are plentiful and cost around 70p a lb.

Flat fish is more expensive with Dover sole up to about £6 a lb. Lemon sole is scarce and costs about £3 a lb. There are good supplies of monk fish at around £4.60 a lb, fresh tuna £4.99, fresh sword fish £5.60 or frozen at £4.20.

The first of the season's cod roe has arrived about a month later than normal. At £2.40 a lb it is expensive although prices will drop. Herring roe is a good buy at £1.30. Farm salmon is amazingly cheap with large cutlets at £4 a lb and small whole fish as little as £2.19 a lb.

Shellfish lovers are in for a treat with the arrival of live rock lobster from Australia. Even the fishmonger is impressed by their "meatiness" and they retail at about £9 a lb. Smoked trout can make an excellent alternative to smoked salmon and costs about £10 a lb. There is also delicately flavoured smoked mackerel from the United States and Mauritius at about £7 a lb. A rich casserole of beef bourguignon and chestnuts made now and frozen is an excellent Christmas stand-by. The freezer seems to tenderize the meat and enhance the

flavours. Chuck-braising steak at £2.50 a lb is ideal for such recipes. If making beef olives, you will need topside, on promotion at Tesco and Sainsbury at £3.18 a lb. For cottage pies or spaghetti bolognese, minced beef between £1.20 and £1.50 a lb is economic.

Try British minced lamb at about £1.88 a lb at most butchers or Sainsbury's excellent New Zealand lamb freeflow mince at 99p a lb for mousaka. Braised pork marries well with tangerines, walnuts, dried apricots, prunes, apples and cider. Sainsbury and Tesco have pork chops at £1.18 and £1.24 a lb respectively.

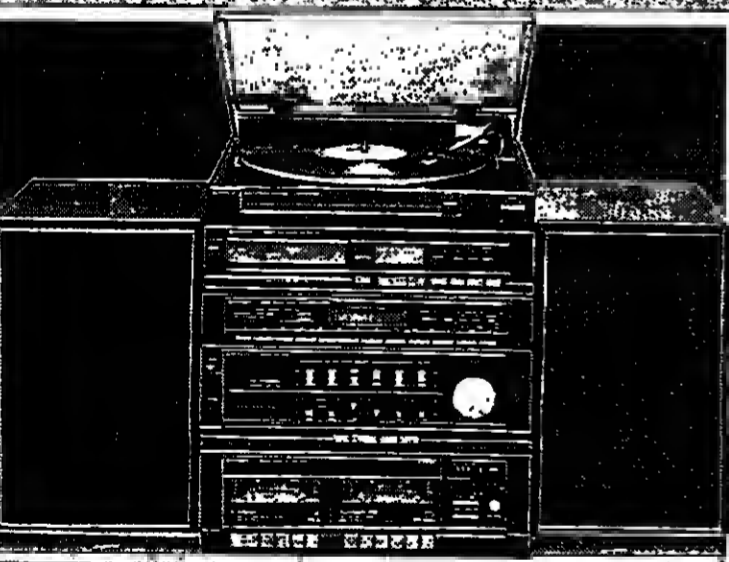
Best meat buys this week include Sainsbury New Zealand lamb at £1.28 a lb, Presto forerib of beef £1.79 a lb, steak and kidney £1.38 a lb and boneless pork chops £1.88 a lb. Asda frozen standard turkeys 54p a lb; frozen basted turkeys 57p a lb; Bejam catering turkeys 49p a lb and beef roasting joints £1.89 a lb; Dewhurst fresh style frozen turkeys 89p a lb.

There are no problems with supplies of fruit or vegetables. Delicious red apples at 40p to 55p a lb from America add a festive look. Clementines at 25p to 50p a lb are slightly cheaper than satsumas. Mangoes are 45p to 51p each and pomegranates 20p to 35p each. Cranberries are widely available between 80p and £1 for 8oz.

Tomatoes are 30-55p a lb, and good quality Chinese leaves 30p-65p.

Exclusive to Dixons Extra! Savings on top-brand CD Hi-Fi's

EXTRA VALUE HITACHI



HITACHI CD MIDI with Digital Tuner
● Superb sound from programmable CD player
● Twin Cassette with Dolby B* Noise Reduction
● Digital Tuner for accurate radio reception
● Belt-drive turntable.
Model: SMD300.
Dixons Deal £329.99
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £14 MONTHLY.

TOP NAME - TOP PERFORMANCE



SONY Multi-Play CD Midi
● Multi-play CD takes up to 5 discs
● Remote control
● 5-band Graphic Equaliser
● Twin-cassette deck with DOLBY B*
● High-speed dubbing
● Selected branches only.
Model: Compact 550.
Dixons Deal £649.99
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £28 MONTHLY.

Dixons CHRISTMAS EXTRA
Only Dixons bring you all these offers
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES
GUARANTEED PRODUCT QUALITY
GUARANTEED EXCHANGE
Dixons CARD
UP TO £2000 DISCOUNT
360 HIGH ST. BRANCHES NATIONWIDE
For your nearest store and full details - Phones 01-200 0200
Subject to availability. Offer available through Dixons Finance Dept. (credit card holders and Cash 24 hours. Values correct as of 10/12/88. 10-24 High Street, Epsom, Middlesex. Savings based on products sold at Dixons, Brent Cross store. *DOLBY B is a Registered Trade Mark.

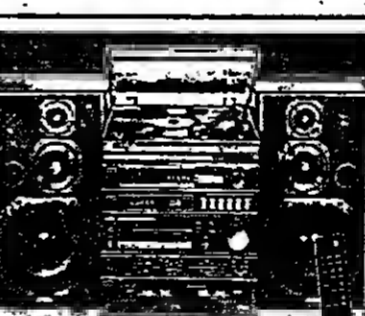
EXTRA! £20 SAVING ON CD SYSTEMS



JVC Remote Control CD Midi
● PLL digital tuner with 40 station presets
● Twin cassette with high-speed dubbing
● 5-band graphic equaliser
● Fully programmable CD player.
Model: W300/XLE300.
Total Separate Selling Price £449.98
Dixons Deal £429.95
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £18 MONTHLY.



JVC Remote Control Hi-Power CD Midi
● Twin-cassette deck with DOLBY B* NR
● 40 watts per channel RMS.
Model: W400/XLE300.
Total Separate Selling Price £519.98
Dixons Deal £499.95
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £21 MONTHLY.



AIWA Remote Control CD Midi Hi-Fi
● Am-FM control for easy listening
● 5-band graphic equaliser
● Twin-cassette with Auto Reverse
● 3-band digital tuner. Model: X78/DXM78.
Total Separate Selling Price £569.98
Dixons Deal £549.95
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £23 MONTHLY.

EXTRA! £20 SAVING ON MULTI-PLAY CD MIDI HI-FI



PIONEER WITH HI-POWER 40 WATTS PER CHANNEL
● CD player takes up to 6 discs at one go
● Remote Control for armchair convenience
● Twin Cassette with Auto Reverse for uninterrupted listening
● Digital tuner with 24 pre-set stations.
Model: S2/PDZ81M.
Total Separate Selling Price £599.98
Dixons Deal £579.95
NO DEPOSIT INSTANT CREDIT, ONLY £25 MONTHLY.

STEPHEN HAWKING IS NEARER TO FINDING THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE THAN WE ARE TO FINDING A CURE FOR HIS ILLNESS.

At the age of 46, Professor Stephen Hawking is thought by many to be the most brilliant scientist of his age.

His book "A Brief History of Time" is a runaway bestseller in America and England. Yet he is in a race against time himself, suffering from a disease for which there is no cure.

Motor Neurone disease kills 3 people every day in Britain. Muscles just fade away leaving people more and more helpless. (Stephen Hawking has no voice now: he communicates through a computer)

We urgently need funds for research so we can stop the terrible daily waste of life. We need to find £250,000 this year for projects already under way. Please send whatever you can afford.



I would like to send a donation to: The Motor Neurone Disease Association, PO Box 246, Northampton NN1 1TR.
I enclose £20 £50 £100 £200 Other £
or debit my account: Visa Access
Name Title
Address
Postcode
Every donation will be acknowledged most gratefully and we promise to help you informed about our work. Registered charity No. 294354.

West pro
reductio
Reagan
on forces
Offer by K
surprises

Nato ministers take up Gorbachov gauntlet on conventional weapons

West proposes 50% reduction in arms

From Michael Evans and Frederick Bonart, Brussels

Nato foreign ministers yesterday took up the gauntlet thrown down by President Gorbachov of the Soviet Union at the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday by approving a conventional arms control package that would have numbers of tanks, artillery, armoured vehicles and other "offensive weapons" in Europe.

Although the burden of the proposed reductions would fall more heavily on the Warsaw Pact, because of its superiority in such weapons, the foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, were anxious to show that Nato was also fully prepared to reduce its arsenal.

In producing a formal declaration which outlined the Nato proposals, the ministers also paid tribute to Mr Gorbachov's gesture.

Under the Nato proposals, there would be an overall limit of 40,000 tanks deployed in Europe - 20,000 on each side - and no country would be entitled to have more than a fixed proportion, "such as 30 per cent", of the total holdings in each equipment category in Europe of the 23 Nato and Warsaw Pact countries. The

declaration said that no country would be allowed to have more than about 12,000 tanks deployed in Europe. There would also be a limit on the number of active combat units in other countries' territory, and sub-limits on weapons in order "to avoid undue concentration in certain areas". Officials at the Brussels meeting of the North Atlantic Council insisted that Mr Gorbachov's statement had not changed the thrust of the Alliance's proposals, because the Soviet leader had taken only one step towards what Nato had demanded for a decade.

None of the ministers in Brussels cast any doubt on Mr Gorbachov's motives, although US officials emphasized he had only made a statement, no one doubted the cuts would be made.

Officials confirmed that under Mr Gorbachov's cuts, 50 per cent of the Soviet tanks now deployed in Eastern Europe would be withdrawn and the present Warsaw Pact superiority over Nato in tanks and artillery would be reduced from a 3-1 to 2-1 ratio. But, despite the buoyant at-

mosphere at the meeting, there was growing concern about how Mr Gorbachov's initiative might affect Nato's plan to modernize short-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

British officials insisted that no cuts in conventional forces would have any bearing on the plan, but Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, said that modernization was now "even more marginal".

The real business of negotiating arms cuts will begin next year in the new Conventional Stability forum. Provided the mandate for these talks is resolved between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, they could start by January 6. One problem could be in the area of combat aircraft. British and US sources said that aircraft would not be included in the mandate, which was supposed to focus on land forces only.

But US officials admitted yesterday: "The Soviets are very eager to include aircraft in the talks." Soviet military chiefs have claimed that Nato has superiority in aircraft. This is denied by the West. Parliament, page 12



Closest of allies: Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, conferring with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, during the Nato ministerial meeting in Brussels yesterday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Mandela family dismisses move

Johannesburg (AFP) - Nelson Mandela, the South African black nationalist leader, will not accept freedom unless all political prisoners are released, his family said yesterday, dismissing his transfer from a Cape Town clinic to a prison warder's home as meaningless. His move to the house, adjacent to a prison in the rural town of Paarl - which has a swimming pool and a large garden has confirmed that the authorities are planning a phased release.

● Activists sentenced: Eleven black activists were sentenced to prison terms ranging from five to 12 years at the end yesterday of the three-year "Delmas" terrorism trial (Ray Kennedy writes). Five had their sentences suspended.

Jet crashes on houses

Bonn - Several people were reported killed and six houses destroyed by fire when a US Air Force jet fighter from Nörvenich base, near Cologne, crashed on the inner-city area of Remscheid, near Düsseldorf, yesterday (John England writes). Rescue teams found three bodies among the debris, and pulled several injured from it. A US forces spokesman said it was not known why the A10 Thunderbolt crashed, but an investigation team was going to Remscheid.

Interpol drugs plea

Brussels - The EEC must introduce new legislation, making it mandatory to report all cross-frontier currency transactions, if the burgeoning profits from the illicit international drugs trade are to be confiscated, Mr Raymond Kendall, the Secretary-General of Interpol, said yesterday (Michael Dynes writes). He was addressing a conference of the 103-member Customs Co-operation Council, called to improve links between national customs services.

Mitterrand meetings

Prague - President Mitterrand of France arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit (Richard Bassett writes). Mitterrand, who has been criticized for visiting Prague during a crackdown on dissidents, is expected to meet Charter 77 activists, and Mr Alexander Dubcek.

Reagan muted on forces cuts

From Michael Binyon, New York

President Reagan's cautious welcome of President Gorbachov's sweeping arms cuts has so far been deliberately muted. This reflects the US determination not to be swept away by the timing and skilful presentation of a proposal most Americans have long been expecting, nor to allow Western public opinion to be lulled into believing the overwhelming Soviet advantage in conventional forces has now been removed.

"If it is carried out speedily and in full, history will regard it as important, significant," Mr Reagan said.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, echoing White House satisfaction that Moscow was now moving down a road long urged by Washington, also underlined the distance still to go: even after 1991, the asymmetries in the conventional balance would still leave the Soviet side with a huge advantage.

There are several reasons for the Americans' caution. The first is that they want to study the fine print, to be sure there are no killer clauses or conditions in this unilateral announcement. Too often before, a seemingly grand gesture has turned out to be less generous on second sight, and dependent on a reciprocal - and unacceptable - Western response.

Second, the US wants to consult its Western allies before voicing a response that can only be made in a Nato context. The Americans know that some Alliance members - such as West Germany - will press for a strongly supportive reaction, whereas others will focus on what still remains to be done.

Third, the Reagan Administration, in this awkward transitional phase, is still miffed at what it perceives as Mr Gorbachov's attempt to set the agenda for Mr Bush.

But as Mr Reagan made clear, the Soviet move was not unexpected. Before the Moscow summit, the US believed that the Kremlin would offer

big conventional cuts to allay Western worries that strategic force reductions would simply increase the dangers of Soviet conventional superiority.

Soviet officials at the time said privately that they were contemplating such a move, but did not want one that would be dismissed merely as a propaganda initiative, as this would block further progress. In the end, Mr Gorbachov, somewhat half-heartedly, put forward a plan similar to Wednesday's announcement, but which called for a matching Western reduction in troops.

Washington has been prepared in other ways, too. The Soviet emphasis on its new defensive doctrine of "reasonable sufficiency" has been questioned by people such as Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, who told Mr Dmitry Yazov, his Soviet counterpart, during his visit to the Soviet Union in the summer that he saw no evidence yet of any change in strategy. But Mr Yazov told him to wait and see and hinted that Moscow would indeed reduce such key offensive capabilities as bridging equipment, which Mr Gorbachov announced at the UN.

Washington also recognized that the Kremlin's economic crisis made a reduction in the Soviet defence budget inevitable, and that Mr Gorbachov was simply waiting for the moment when he could turn this to his advantage.

Nevertheless, the timing - just before the crucial Conventional Stability Talks begin in Vienna and as both sides pause to take stock in the increasingly complex bargaining on strategic reductions - makes the Gorbachov announcement particularly welcome. It begins to remove the concern of the Europeans about the European balance. It will also make it easier for Mr Bush to grasp the nettle of Pentagon budget cuts, which can also be presented as a political gesture, making the best of a bad job.

Offer by Kremlin surprises East

From Richard Bassett, Prague

Mr Gorbachov's announcement that the Soviet Union will withdraw unilaterally 30,000 men - some six tank divisions - from Eastern Europe has taken Warsaw Pact leaders by surprise.

As recently as two weeks ago, Mr Miklos Memmet, Hungary's Prime Minister, told Western journalists that

Peking - China yesterday welcomed President Gorbachov's announcement that Soviet troops would be withdrawn from Mongolia and Eastern Europe (Catherine Sampson writes). Mr Li Zhaoping, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said: "This is a positive development and we welcome it."

Western defence analysts in Prague yesterday described

Mr Gorbachov's announcement as "very important" but remained unsure as to how it would affect the balance of forces in Central and Eastern Europe. At present, five Soviet divisions, each of 11,000 men, are stationed "temporarily" in Czechoslovakia under an agreement signed in 1968. It is believed here that the Czechoslovak authorities, many of whom owe their position to the Soviet intervention, would be unwilling to allow more than one division to depart.

In Hungary, however, the absence of any frontier with a Nato country would allow for "total" Soviet withdrawal.

In Poland, where there are only two Soviet divisions, a withdrawal would have a minimal effect on the Warsaw Pact's Western defences.

In East Germany there are some 19 divisions, and experts believe that Mr Gorbachov could concentrate his six-division withdrawal entirely on East Germany without impairing his numerical superiority over Nato forces in West Germany.

It mixes the flour.
It kneads the dough.
It bakes the bread.
It even switches itself on when you're asleep.
It's Funai. But it's true.



And it's only £169.99.

Just add the ingredients and set the timer, for bread exactly how you want it, exactly when you want it. It's that simple with the Funai Auto-bakery. Now available at all Currys branches. **FUNAI**

For more information call 0705 453801.

The Armenian earthquake: ● Rescue operation ● Turkey escapes lightly

Soviet officials fear Wrecked homes a town's haunting legacy 50,000 dead as cities are flattened

Moscow (AP) — The Soviet Union rushed military surgeons and tonnes of medical supplies yesterday into northern Armenia after the devastating earthquake virtually destroyed several cities. Some unofficial reports said that tens of thousands of people were killed.

Armenian journalists, reached by telephone from Moscow, said a high-level Politburo commission led by the Prime Minister, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, was receiving preliminary estimates that as many as 50,000 people died in Wednesday's earthquake.

Asked about that figure, a Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Vadim Perfilev, told the Associated Press in Moscow that he had no information to back it up and that no official toll had been released. Other officials said they would make no estimate of the deaths because of the widespread damage and unreliable communications.

Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that unidentified Armenian officials said 50,000 people died. The official *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported that "tens of thousands of people became victims of the earthquake." It did not cite a source.

"Military surgeons are carrying out a series of difficult operations, including on children, in field conditions," General Vladimir Arkhipov of the Soviet Army told Tass. A "helicopter bridge" had been set up to ferry the injured north from the devastated Armenian cities of Leninakan, Spitak and Kirovakan to hospitals in Soviet Georgia.

Official media reports said the earthquake leveled all but one of eight schools in Spitak, a city of 16,000 people, and that virtually no multi-story buildings were left without serious damage in Leninakan, a city of 250,000 people on the Turkish border.

A newspaper report said soldiers had pulled the bodies of more than 50 school children from the ruins of school No 9 in Leninakan. Blood donations were being collected at many points in Moscow, and cities including Gorky, Chelyabinsk, and Kuybyshev had sent the majority of their blood supply

to Armenia. Tons of blankets, field kitchens, tents and medicine were pouring into the region, Tass said. Mr I. Denisov, the deputy Minister of Health, told the news agency that a group of 78 doctors left Moscow for Armenia on Wednesday night and that a second brigade of neurosurgeons headed for Yerevan yesterday.

Soldiers were setting up tent cities for evacuees from devastated regions, and working to restore electricity and water supplies, General Arkhipov told Tass. President Gorbachov was cutting short a visit to New York and heading to the area to lead the rescue operation.

Potenza (AFP) — An earthquake measuring five on the 12-point Mercalli scale shook a region near the southern Italian city of Naples on Wednesday night, the National Geophysics Institute said yesterday. First reports indicated no serious damage. It struck along the Mediterranean fault line running through Naples, where a quake in November, 1980, killed 2,916 people.

"Preliminary data indicate that in the Armenian republic, thousands of people have died and of course I cannot give you a more accurate figure for obvious reasons, there being also a lot of disruption," the Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, told a news conference, announcing President Gorbachov's return to the Soviet Union.

"We know that thousands have died, but we...are not publishing any precise figures because all of the dead have not been counted yet," said Nora Milikyan, an editor of the official Armenian news agency Armenpress.

"We know it is a high figure," she said. "All I can say is that it is a tragedy." In the first detailed report on casualties, *Komsomolskaya Pravda* said soldiers were working under spotlights in the wreckage of school No. 9 in Leninakan.

It said two sergeants, Valery Gumenyuk and Kairat Adilbekov, "told us that they already had pulled from under

the ruins the bodies of more than 50 children." Only a few children had been found alive in the collapsed building.

Reports from the area said Spitak was hardest hit. The surrounding region's population of 50,000 had increased by several thousand in recent weeks by settlers fleeing ethnic strife between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, *Izvestia* said.

General Arkhipov told Tass that soldiers were setting up tent cities yesterday for evacuees from the Leninakan, Kirovakan, Spitak, Stepanavan, Amasiya and Gugar regions — virtually all of northwestern Armenia.

Mr Alexei Tyulyandin, first deputy director of the Soviet Red Cross, said one plane with 14.5 tons of medical supplies was dispatched overnight. About 400 students gave blood at Moscow State University, and the Red Cross had set up collection points for clothing, blankets and shoes.

Mr Albert Khachatryan, a department head at the Armenian Ministry of Health, told the Associated Press by telephone that 2,500 injured had been brought to the Armenian capital from Leninakan, Kirovakan and Spitak, and that more were expected.

Tass said another 200 people had been taken to hospitals across the border in the Soviet Georgian republic. Mr Khachatryan said many doctors had come to the region from throughout the Soviet Union. Yerevan still had hospital beds available, and the number of doctors available was sufficient to handle the injured.

He said doctors in Yerevan were seeing many patients suffering from broken bones, head injuries and shock. President Gorbachov cut short his stay in New York by a day and cancelled planned visits to Cuba and Great Britain.

"Despite the fact that all emergency measures are being taken...Mr Gorbachov believes when the people are suffering he has to be there, he has to lead the efforts," Mr Shevardnadze told a news conference in New York. He said President Gorbachov would fly to Moscow and then on to Yerevan.



Apartment blocks reduced to rubble or left leaning dangerously off-centre in the town of Spitak, one of the areas in northern Armenia worst hit by the quake.

Ankara mobilizes relief effort

Eastern Turkey escapes with four deaths

While parts of Armenia lay in ruins, neighbouring Turkey, accustomed to earthquakes, was left largely intact by Wednesday's severe tremors. Officials in Kars province, bordering the stricken Soviet Republic, said four people had died in two villages. The earthquake and its aftershock were strongly felt in five provinces, but the heaviest damage was in Kars, where reports said more than 200 houses were destroyed, mostly in the countryside, and about as many damaged. People left homeless were provided with tents and promised speedy relief by the authorities. The close brush with disaster, however, served to highlight once more the vulnerability of the country, which sits on an active earthquake belt where fault lines run into each other and the Arabian and the Black Sea plates meet the Anatolian plate. Statistics put the loss of life in 36 serious earthquakes since the start of the century at 71,000 and the number of houses destroyed at about 400,000. The worst of these earthquakes hit the eastern town of Erzurum in 1939, claiming 45,000 lives. Most recently, 3,837 people died in the earthquake which struck Kars in 1976, and 1,330 more in Erzurum in 1983. Agencies reported that thousands of people, fearing

West promises aid

Experienced rescue teams ready to fly to devastated provinces

Western governments and relief organisations yesterday pledged their assistance to the Soviet relief effort in Armenia. President Reagan promised American aid in a 13-minute telephone call to Mr Gorbachov before he left New York for the Soviet Union. He said: "If there is any way in which we can be of assistance, either bilaterally or through the international community, please let me know." The British, French, West German and Italian governments all offered relief workers and technical support. The American Red Cross has sent \$50,000 to support the work of the Soviet Red Cross and was yesterday preparing to send medical supplies and other materials to assist the victims. Mr Richard Schubert, the society's president said that the initial indications were that large supplies of antibiotics would be needed. "If the Soviets request assistance, we will work with them to determine the kind of assistance most needed," Mrs Phyllis Oakley, the State Department spokeswoman, said. Mr John Matlock, US ambassador to the Soviet Union, in a television interview said: "We stand ready to assist if there is an effective way we can...they have indicated they will let us know if they need some help." "We have rescue teams and teams available to supply things like tents and medical supplies and so on." The British-based International Rescue Corps which sent search and rescue personnel to the 1985 Mexico and the 1986 El Salvador earthquakes yesterday sent a telegram to President Gorbachov offering assistance. "We have a team of 15 rescue workers standing by who are skilled in working in earthquake conditions and are anxious to help relieve the tragedy," said Mr Terry Price, founder member of the corps. Mr Jacques Delors, the President of the executive commission of the EEC said that the Commission was ready to contribute emergency aid immediately if the Soviet Union authorized it to do so. The Paris-based medical relief organisation *Médécins Sans Frontières* said yesterday that its team of five doctors carrying medical supplies was standing by ready to fly to Armenia. The World Health Organiza-

DIAMOND SERVICE

BETWEEN HEATHROW AND TEESIDE, 10 FLIGHTS A DAY. DIAMOND SERVICE ALL THE WAY.

You can fly British Midland Diamond Service between Heathrow and Teesside in around an hour. On any of our 10 flights every weekday.

And because each flight is Diamond Service, everyone gets the full Business Class treatment, with superb food and drinks, compliments of BM. All for as little as £119 return if you complete your trip within 3 days.

Add to this our unrivalled reputation for personal attention, and you will begin to see why BM has, once again, been voted Best Domestic Airline.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| HEATHROW - TEESIDE | TEESIDE - HEATHROW |
| 08.50 09.50 | 07.10 08.15 |
| 11.45 12.40 | 10.20 11.15 |
| 14.35 15.30 | 13.10 14.05 |
| 17.25 18.20 | 16.00 16.55 |
| 20.25 21.20 | 18.50 19.50 |

For further information ask your travel agent or call: 01-589 5599 or 0642 219444.

BRITISH MIDLAND

West promises aid

Experienced rescue teams ready to fly to devastated provinces

By Our Foreign Staff

Western governments and relief organisations yesterday pledged their assistance to the Soviet relief effort in Armenia. President Reagan promised American aid in a 13-minute telephone call to Mr Gorbachov before he left New York for the Soviet Union. He said: "If there is any way in which we can be of assistance, either bilaterally or through the international community, please let me know." The British, French, West German and Italian governments all offered relief workers and technical support. The American Red Cross has sent \$50,000 to support the work of the Soviet Red Cross and was yesterday preparing to send medical supplies and other materials to assist the victims. Mr Richard Schubert, the society's president said that the initial indications were that large supplies of antibiotics would be needed. "If the Soviets request assistance, we will work with them to determine the kind of assistance most needed," Mrs Phyllis Oakley, the State Department spokeswoman, said. Mr John Matlock, US ambassador to the Soviet Union, in a television interview said: "We stand ready to assist if there is an effective way we can...they have indicated they will let us know if they need some help." "We have rescue teams and teams available to supply things like tents and medical supplies and so on." The British-based International Rescue Corps which sent search and rescue personnel to the 1985 Mexico and the 1986 El Salvador earthquakes yesterday sent a telegram to President Gorbachov offering assistance. "We have a team of 15 rescue workers standing by who are skilled in working in earthquake conditions and are anxious to help relieve the tragedy," said Mr Terry Price, founder member of the corps. Mr Jacques Delors, the President of the executive commission of the EEC said that the Commission was ready to contribute emergency aid immediately if the Soviet Union authorized it to do so. The Paris-based medical relief organisation *Médécins Sans Frontières* said yesterday that its team of five doctors carrying medical supplies was standing by ready to fly to Armenia. The World Health Organi-

How gentle shaking recorded tragedy

By Robert Matthews
Technology Correspondent

Around the world, hundreds of delicate, extremely sophisticated seismometers gently shook as the shock-wave from Armenia passed under them, their movement belying the ferocity of the cause.

In Edinburgh, more than 2,000 miles from the epicentre, the instruments at the British Geological Survey picked up the gentle heaving in the Earth's crust caused by the quake, and the movement to and fro and left and right.

Capable of detecting movements as little as a thousandth of a millimetre, the seismographs convert internal movements caused by the shock waves into electrical impulses recorded on magnetic tape.

Scientists at the BGS fed the readings from their seismometers into a computer programmed to work out the exact location of the epicentre from the different times at which the shock wave struck the instruments.

These waves from an earthquake travel at very high speed through the Earth's crust. The first to hit seismographs are the so-called primary, or P-waves, which travel at 20 times the speed of sound. These are followed by secondary, S-waves.

The difference in the arrival times of the two types of waves, together with the geographic distribution of the arrival times, enables the computer to find both the area affected, and the depth at which the quake occurred.

Once the rough results had been calculated, the BGS then sent its findings to the headquarters of the US Geological Survey in Berkeley, California, where they were correlated with those from other seismic observatories around the world. This enabled scientists to establish a much more precise picture of the nature of the earthquake.

Initial reports indicated that it was a ninth magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale, making it possibly the worst ever, and that it took place just three miles beneath the affected towns in Armenia.

It is now known that the earthquake was, in fact, far from unusual, measuring just 6.9 and occurring 20 miles beneath the surface.

The density of population in the area, however, has contrived to make it one of the worst ever in terms of human tragedy.

strongly. People in Britain will of course be disappointed not to see you and Mrs Gorbachov, but they too will understand and will look forward to welcoming you as soon as fresh dates can be found.

"May I take the opportunity to congratulate you on your speech at the United Nations. I was warmly welcomed by your proposed reductions in Soviet conventional forces and armaments as an important step towards securing a better balance of forces in Europe."

"It holds out new hope — and makes it all the more important that we should meet soon to discuss the way ahead. Once more I send you my deepest sympathy for the victims of the earthquake. With warm regards, Yours sincerely,
Margaret Thatcher."

Armenian church officials in London said yesterday they feared as many as 100,000 people have been killed by the earthquake.

Mr George Kurkjian, a representative of the Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church of South Armenia, quoted church sources in Moscow as saying they "fear the figure is going to approach 100,000 dead. They're still pulling bodies out non-stop."

Reaction Doctor...
Two also despite...
Power of...
Chronicles of modern-day...

● Reactors go on working ● Global danger spots ● Embassy fund opens

Doctors battle to save quake survivors among debris



Medical staff taking charge of the treatment of earthquake casualties at hospitals and evacuation centres in Yerevan, the Armenian capital. Most victims were brought from cities and outlying villages to the north, which bore the brunt of the quake.

Two atomic reactors working despite massive devastation

By Our Foreign Staff

Two nuclear reactors in the area affected by the earthquake in Armenia apparently were not damaged and are working normally, the International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday. Armenia 1 and Armenia 2, as the Vienna-based regulatory agency calls the two 370-megawatt reactors, are located about 55 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake, which killed thousands and caused devastation. An IAEA spokesman said the organization was told by Mr Armin Abagyan, a Soviet expert, that "both reactors are working normally and supplying the population with electric energy."

The reactors are located near the Soviet Armenian capital of Yerevan and just miles from the Turkish border. The reactors are small by the standards of nuclear reactors, which often put out more than 1,000 megawatts of power, Mr James Daglish, an IAEA spokesman, said. "If they had been damaged in any way they would have been shut right down," Mr Daglish said. He added that the agency was staying in contact with Mr Abagyan, who was monitoring the situation in Moscow. Mr Abagyan was a key figure in investigating the 1986 Chernobyl incident.

NEW YORK: Armenia's second largest city, Leninakan, is believed to have been 75 per cent destroyed by the earthquake, a Politburo member told US officials and businessmen (Reuter reports). Speaking to a meeting yesterday of businessmen and officials, Mr Alexander Yakovlev described the earthquake as very big and said it appeared to have killed thousands. He added that Leninakan, a city of 200,000, was believed to have been 75 per cent destroyed by the quake. His comments were relayed to reporters by Mr Herbert Okun, a US representative to the United Nations who attended the breakfast meeting. The editor of the Armenian news agency Armenpress has said that the city was 30 to 40

per cent destroyed by the earthquake which was reported to have registered between 6.9 and eight on the open-ended Richter scale. Mr Yakovlev was among more than 100 Soviet officials who accompanied President Gorbachov to the US. Another Soviet visitor to the US, an Armenian prelate, said some 70,000 people were feared killed. The churchman, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, said he received the information by telephone from the highest-ranking Armenian church official in the holy city of Echmiadzin. Archbishop Manoogian told a news conference that three cities were especially hard hit and that two churches in them were completely demolished. "There are children in the rubble of collapsed buildings and schools. Thousands of injured are being transported to the capital of Yerevan and Echmiadzin," Archbishop Manoogian said. He and five other Armenian prelates discussed the situation earlier in the day with Soviet government officials at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. Archbishop Manoogian said they applauded President Gorbachov's decision to return to his homeland immediately because of the earthquake, and that he understood that Mr Gorbachov himself might be visiting the stricken area.

London embassy sets up unique disaster fund

In a move without precedent, the Soviet Embassy in London has set up a disaster fund to assist victims of the Armenian earthquake (Mary Dejevsky writes). A special bank account — number 140101-6ARM — has been set up at the London

branch of the Moscow Narodny Bank to receive donations from the public. A spokesman for the embassy said that the account had been opened in response to many calls offering help. In another unusual move, the embassy, at 18 Kensington

Palace Gardens, is to be open to receive gifts such as medicine and clothes. The spokesman said that money paid into the special account would be sent direct to Armenia to help the relief effort. The announcement that donations would be welcome

marks a departure from the Soviet Union's previously disdainful attitude to offers of help from abroad. Recently, Moscow has eased its insistence on state aid and has encouraged charity work both by individuals and non-government organizations.

Power of 100 nuclear bombs

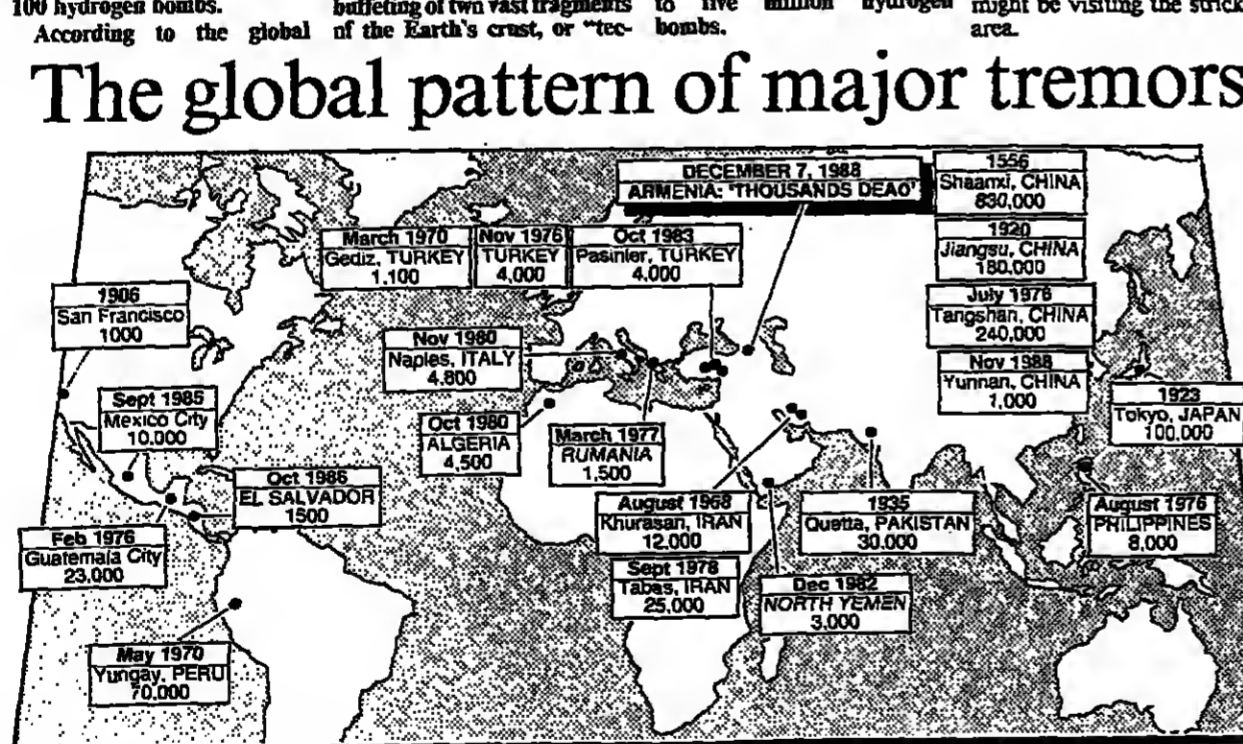
By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

The amount of destruction in Armenia provides a stark display of the colossal energy released by earthquakes. The quake registered 6.9 on the Richter scale, with an aftershock of 5.8, which is moderate by global standards — about 20 of this magnitude are recorded annually. However, 6.9 on the Richter scale, which measures the energy released by an earthquake, corresponds to the simultaneous detonation of 100 hydrogen bombs.

According to the global seismology research group of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh, this enormous amount of energy was released about 20 miles down in the Earth's crust. The combination of explosive power and relatively dense population accounts for the high level of casualties, according to Dr Roger Musson, a BGS seismologist. Armenia is an area prone to earthquakes, this latest being the most severe in the area since 1840, according to the BGS. The underlying cause is the constant grinding and buffeting of two vast fragments of the Earth's crust, or "tec-

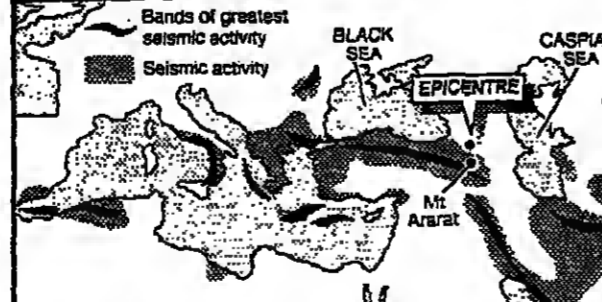
tonic plates", driven together by hot, seething underlying material. Armenia is astride the region where the northward-moving Anatolian plate is forced into the Eurasian plate. The most destructive earthquake on record was probably that which struck Lisbon, Portugal, in November, 1755, being judged to have registered between 8.8 and 9 on the Richter scale. The most powerful ever recorded scientifically was that which struck Lebu, Chile, on May 22, 1960, which recorded 8.8, equivalent to five million hydrogen bombs.

The global pattern of major tremors



Chronology of worst modern-day disasters

Earthquakes have claimed tens of thousands of victims around the world in the past 20 years (Reuter reports). But the most lethal in recorded history hit Shaanxi in China during 1556, killing 830,000 people. In 1920, an earthquake in China's Jiangsu province killed 180,000, and in September, 1923, the Great Kanto Earthquake in the Tokyo area killed 100,000 people. On July 28, 1976, China suffered the worst earthquake in modern history. Some 240,000 died when the north-eastern city of Tangshan was almost completely levelled by an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the open-ended Richter scale. An earthquake is classified as major when its magnitude measures more than seven points on the scale. The other severe earthquakes in which at least 1,000 people have died over the past two decades were at: Khorasan, Iran, August 1968



An estimated 12,000 people were killed in this north-eastern province; Gediz, Turkey, March 1970 More than 1,100 people died and this city in western Turkey was almost completely destroyed; Yungay, Peru, May 1970 As many as 70,000 people were killed and 600,000 left homeless by an earthquake and subsequent avalanche that buried this northern resort city; Guatemala City, February 1976 Nearly 23,000 people died in the quake and mudslides north of the capital. The quake measured 7.5 on the Richter scale and left a 200-mile fissure eight feet wide and 10 ft deep; Mindanao, the Philippines, August 1976 An earthquake and an 18 ft tidal wave killed an estimated 8,000 people and left 150,000 homeless on the island; Van, Turkey, November 1976 More than 4,000 people died in eastern Turkey; Bucharest, Romania, March 1977 Part of the capital was destroyed and more than 1,500 people were killed; Tabas, Iran, September 1978 As many as 25,000 people lost their lives in the earthquake and various aftershocks, measuring up to 7.7 on the Richter scale; Ech Cheff, Algeria, October 1980 Some 4,500 people were killed in the city of 100,000 about 100 miles south-west of Algiers; Naples, November 1980 The city was near the centre of an earthquake that caused devastation in much of southern Italy and killed an estimated 4,800 people; Dhamar Province, North Yemen, December 1982 Some 3,000 people were killed when an earthquake devastated villages, hamlets and settlements over a 1,500 square mile area; Pasinler, Turkey, October 1983 About 1,300 people died in an earthquake near this eastern Turkish city; Mexico City, September 19, 1985 At least 10,000 were killed by quake measuring 8.1, three times as powerful as the 1976 Chinese disaster; San Salvador, El Salvador, October 10, 1986 A quake measuring 7.5 killed about 1,500 people, injured 20,000 and left 300,000 homeless; Yunnan province, China, November 6, 1988 Officials said about 1,000 people died and 3,900 were seriously injured in an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale.

BUY SIX, TAKE SEVEN!



From Anjou Blanc to Zinfandel, from Liebfraumilch to Champagne, there are so many wines on the shelf at your local Peter Dominic store. Buy six bottles of the same wine and we'll give you something you'll like even better—a seventh bottle of the same wine FREE! All you have to do is fill in this special coupon and bring it in before 31st December 1988.

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU THINK IT'S CHRISTMAS!



PETER DOMINIC SPECIAL OFFER
Buy 6 bottles of the same wine and we'll give you another bottle free.
This Offer applies to light wines (not fortified wines or spirits). This coupon cannot be used in conjunction with any other advertised offer. One offer per household only.
All major credit cards including Grand Metropolitan cards are welcome. Offer subject to availability.
TO THE MANAGER, PLEASE ENTER DATE, TRANSACTION NUMBER, PRODUCT AND VALUE.
By law, we cannot sell alcohol to persons under the age of 18.

Strike marks first year of the Palestinian uprising

From Ian Murray, Jabaliya camp, occupied Gaza Strip

This is where it began a year ago, although nobody realized it at the time. Then it seemed more than another violent demonstration, a few more shot Palestinians and a few hundred tear-gassed.

Such outbursts were not exceptional in the occupied territories. Since then, however, there have been new Palestinian "martyrs" at the rate of almost one a day and the Arab word *intifada* (uprising) has passed into the international lexicon. The old image of an embattled Jewish state confronting a hostile Arab world has been turned on its head.

Yesterday was no exception. A youth, aged 17, was killed and another boy wounded in a clash with soldiers at the village of Rihya, south of Hebron in the West Bank, as Palestinians throughout the occupied territories observed the first day of a two-day general strike called to mark the first anniversary of the *intifada*. The United States has found itself isolated with Israel in the United Nations, which moves to Geneva next week to debate the Palestinian issue.

Pressures are building to settle one of the more intractable conflicts in the world. There is change for which the

Mr Faisal Awaidah, the PLO representative in London, yesterday accused Britain of failing to use its influence on the US and Israel, and called for a meeting with ministers to hasten a settlement of the Palestinian problem (Nicholas Beeson writes). He was not satisfied with the British response, saying "it is high time they become more positive".

Intifada can take a great deal of credit.

Inside the camp, however, things have changed only for the worse since last January when Mr David Mellor — since shifted from the Foreign Office where he was a Minister of State — made some un-diplomatic remarks about the quality of life here.

The pond in the middle of Jabaliya is still an open cess-pit. Poverty-line incomes have dropped dramatically. Curfews have disrupted schooling and everyday life. Every family tells its own story of beatings, arrests and

brutality. If anything the Israeli troops, angrily policing the camp, are just as miserable. In the tented towns thrown up to house them behind barbed wire-topped embankments, they are uncomfortable and unhappy.

They hate the unsolicited job of fighting against stone-throwing children and spitting women. Trained to fight battles, they resent the monotony of checking and patrolling a sullen and not always silent people.

However reprehensible, it is not surprising that the resentment sometimes boils over and the troops go on a rampage as happened last month when 21 paratroopers smashed up cars in Kalandia near Jerusalem.

Many are also prey to doubts about the total justness of their cause. More than half of the Army voted in last month's elections for right-wing parties who want to keep the occupied territories. But a large minority voted for parties prepared to give up land for peace.

Some 50 soldiers have even preferred to go to jail than to serve in the territories. The

current deadlocked national political scene adds to the uncertainties.

No such doubts appear to exist in Jabaliya, where shared sufferings have succeeded in unifying the resolve and ending long-standing differences.

"All the people in the camp are one family now," says Mr Mahmoud Sahar, a primary school teacher. "There used to be a lot of differences between us, but now we are all one."

A whole new mythology and spirit has been born of the *intifada* which makes nonsense of claims by right-wing politicians that the resistance could be smashed in a few days if the Army were only given its head. The new spirit is almost tangible if you spend a night under curfew talking to the people.

One effect of the *intifada* has been to push up the births and marriage rate. Long curfews have forced people to stay in at night and more babies than ever are being born. Lack of money, with no need to provide dowries, expensive presents or costly receptions, has actually encouraged young couples to get married.

Veteran on campaign trail



Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, aged 72, the former Sri Lankan Prime Minister who is the main opposition candidate in this month's presidential election, addressing a campaign rally at Gampaha, near Colombo. She claimed that she would win by a million votes — if she were allowed to (Renter reports).

"Wait at the polls and see the ballot boxes are protected — under this Government, they tend to disappear."

Her main campaign planks are the security situation and the economy, both of which she claims have deteriorated under the governing United National Party. She declared that "this Government has brought a foreign army on to your soil, an army larger than your own country's", referring to the 50,000 Indian troops

flown in last year to try to disarm Tamil rebels in the north and east.

She poured scorn on the promise of Mr Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Prime Minister and the United National presidential candidate, to guarantee 2,500 rupees (about £45) a month to families living on government food stamps, saying: "This offer is absurd. It covers two million families and would take three-quarters of the national budget."

Detainees rearrested on way to freedom

Singapore (AFP) — Four people held without trial since April under the Internal Security Act were rearrested minutes after they were released from custody on a court order.

The four were about to leave the Whitley Detention Centre when Internal Security Department officers asked them to get into a car, witnesses said. The detainees — lawyers Teo Soh Lung and Kevin De Souza, a publisher, Wong Souk Yee, and a lecturer, Chang Suan Tee, refused and a scuffle broke out.

They were served with what appeared to be fresh detention orders in the car.

Murder charge

Mombasa (Renter) — Five Kenyans were remanded for trial on March 7 charged with robbing and murdering a Danish teacher, Mr Pelle Palm, at his holiday bungalow near Mombasa last month.

Defence order

Brussels (Renter) — The Italian aerospace group Agusta Spa said it had won a helicopter order from the Belgian Army worth £173 million after a fierce fight with French rival Aerospatiale.

Bus tragedy

Belgrade (Renter) — Five people were killed and 51 injured when a bus skidded off an icy road in eastern Yugoslavia on Wednesday night.

Pilot defects

Islamabad (AFP) — An Afghan air force pilot defected yesterday and landed his MiG21 aircraft at an airfield in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan.



Naguib Mahfouz discussing his work in Cairo yesterday.

Ban stays on Nobel winner

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Tomorrow's presentation of the Nobel Prize for Literature to the daughters of Naguib Mahfouz, the only Arabic writer to win the award, will be overshadowed by a bitter dispute in his native Egypt about a ban imposed on one of his most famous novels, *The*

Children of Gebelawi. Officials at al-Azhar, Cairo's 1,000-year-old Islamic institute, have ruled that the ban imposed on the work 20 years ago is still valid.

Senialization was halted this week in the mass circulation evening paper, *al-Messa*.

The ban has embarrassed the moderate Government of President Mubarak as the novel, which questions religious norms in an Islamic society, is already published freely in other Muslim countries. It is soon to appear in English, outside Egypt, as part of a lucrative deal announced yesterday and partially negotiated by Mrs Jackie Onassis between the author's Egyptian publishers and Doubleday of New York.

Save up to £1,607 on Magnet's quality kitchens. But hurry! Only 7 days to go.

25% OFF

SAVE £1,607.73 ON OLD ENGLISH KITCHEN UNITS
The cabinet maker's art has been lavished on this magnificent European oak kitchen. OFFER ENDS DEC. 17th. **£4,823.17**

40% OFF

SAVE £1,152.42 ON MINSTER OAK KITCHEN UNITS
With its excellent American Oak, this is a thoroughly modern kitchen with a host of special features and decorative details. OFFER ENDS DEC. 17th. **£2,028.63**

33% OFF

SAVE £789.93 ON CHESTNUT KITCHEN UNITS
With its rich and warm appearance and its variety of storage space, this kitchen is a beautiful and practical investment. OFFER ENDS DEC. 17th. **£1,582.22**

25% OFF

SAVE £490.54 ON CHERRY KITCHEN UNITS
With its classic and elegant look, this kitchen is a beautiful and practical investment. OFFER ENDS DEC. 17th. **£1,471.61**

40% OFF

SAVE £391.59 ON RIMINI BEDROOM
This handily designed 'pure white' bedroom is carefully finished with brass knobs and a gold trim. **£629.22**

25% OFF

SAVE £381.28 ON RED CHERRY KITCHEN UNITS
With its classic and elegant look, this kitchen is a beautiful and practical investment. OFFER ENDS DEC. 17th. **£1,143.83**

Right now, you can have one of these superb kitchens computer-planned free, while saving as much as 40%.

Simply bring in the measurements of your kitchen and one of our professional Magnet designers will "build" your new kitchen on a computer screen. You go home with computer drawings so detailed, you can see from several different viewpoints exactly how your new kitchen will look in your home.

What's more when you have your kitchen computer-planned before December 23rd 1988, we'll give you a free bottle of Champagne.

So visit your local store before these kitchen offers end, and discover how little craftsmanship costs at Magnet.

SAVE ON PATIO DOORS

A Patio Door from Magnet's wide range will enhance your home's appearance, and give you easy access and natural light.

MAGNASTAR BPS £129.95 (excluding substrate)

BRITAIN'S LARGEST RANGE OF DOORS

ELIZABETHAN

Elizabethan in Sapele Mahogany. One of the best doors you can buy. 6'6" x 2'9". £194.95.

£149.95

Victorian Internal Softwood. Classic styling, ready to paint. 6'6" x 2'6". £51.95.

£39.95

25% OFF Mirrored Sliding Doors. Makes your bedroom appear double the size overnight. Prices from **£91.80**

HOW TO SAVE AT MAGNET Buy three or more units from any one of our featured kitchen ranges at any one time and you qualify for savings of up to 40% off catalogue prices. One of our local Magnet branches will be glad to explain the full details of our current offers.

Magnet

ALL AROUND THE HOME

Villagers live on hope after flood

From Edward Gorman, Fulbria, Bangladesh

The village of Fulbria, 30 miles east of Dhaka and close to the mighty Meghna River, is strung out on a raised mud bank shaded by lychee, bamboo, mango and jack-fruit trees. For the 200 or so families it contains, the pressing question is whether the food will last out until the April, or boro, rice harvest.

For the first time in years, the farmers are growing potato and corn over the winter, using seeds provided as emergency assistance by the Government.

More than half of the families are landless and work their tiny acreages as sharecroppers. The landlord provides seed and fertilizer. In return, the farmers surrender up to 75 per cent of the crop. The average income in this relatively prosperous community is a mere 40,000 taka (about £660) per year.

It rained here for seven days without interruption in August. The water, exceeding even the levels of the worst previous flood in 1953, quickly swamped the entire

village, destroying homes and possessions.

But, most important of all, the waters washed away the October, or aman, rice crop. "The people have not fully recovered from the scars of the floods. There is hope but still we suffer from the nightmare," explained Mr Shaheen Kamal, aged 20, a student at a nearby district college. For 18 days, he said, the villagers were forced to squeeze onto the roofs of the few brick-built houses.

He shares the general unease about the corn and potatoes. The plan is to try to sell the crops, together with chillies and mustard, and use the money to buy rice.

But he is worried about what he expects will be sharp increases in the price of increasingly scarce rice during the coming months, and it will be some time yet before the potatoes are ready. "I don't think we can survive until the next rice crop because there is not really enough stored food in the village," he says without a trace of self pity.

CHRISTMAS CAMERAS

OLYMPUS AZ300
1988 Camera of the Year, dubbed "Superzoom". Autofocus 3x power zoom, motor wind, flash. As many functions as a complex SLR but so automated it can even frame the shot for you! Free films from Tecno! **£249**

SURESHOT
Be a Hotshot with a Canon Sureshot. Autofocus 35/12.8 lens, motorised wind, auto flash, self timer. With case and battery, RRP £149.95. Tecno price, **£128**

FUJI FZ500
New! 35-70mm motorised zoom compact. Autofocus, 3-mode flash, macro, back-light control. With strap, battery and films. **£179**

MINOLTA AF-E11
Pocket autofocus, auto flash, auto wind camera. Self-timer, auto film speed setting. Case and free films from Tecno! **£78**

FREE CATALOGUE!
1000's of camera/video deals. Xmas Gift Guide. From any Tecno or free phone 0800-282-767.

MAIL ORDER
24 hr service 01-898 9934. Free delivery from Tecno! **£78**

E1500 ON-THE-SPOT CREDIT! (Ask for written details)

Tecno

326 Euston Road, NW1 | Birmingham | Bristol | Feltham
120 Moorgate, EC2 | Guildford | Leeds | Manchester
3 Procter St, Hallowell | Reading | Southampton
260 Kensington High St | Open late Thursdays until 8pm

mil Detainees
 rearrested
 on way
 to freedom

Murder charge

Defence of

Bus tragic

Pilot defies

Travellers live
 after flight

WESTMAN
 SA... ERN

1010

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIV AND AIDS?

TIME.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus which leads to AIDS.

It is now recognised that most people who are infected with this virus will go on to develop AIDS.

It may take 1 year. It may take 5 years. It may take 15 years.

During this time a person can look and feel perfectly healthy.

But, through sexual intercourse, they could pass on the virus to others.

It is estimated that for every person with AIDS there are thirty with HIV.

Obviously, the more people you sleep with the

more likely you are to become infected.

But the answer doesn't just mean fewer sexual partners.

It also means using a condom, or even having sex that avoids penetration.

AIDS may be incurable but it's also avoidable.

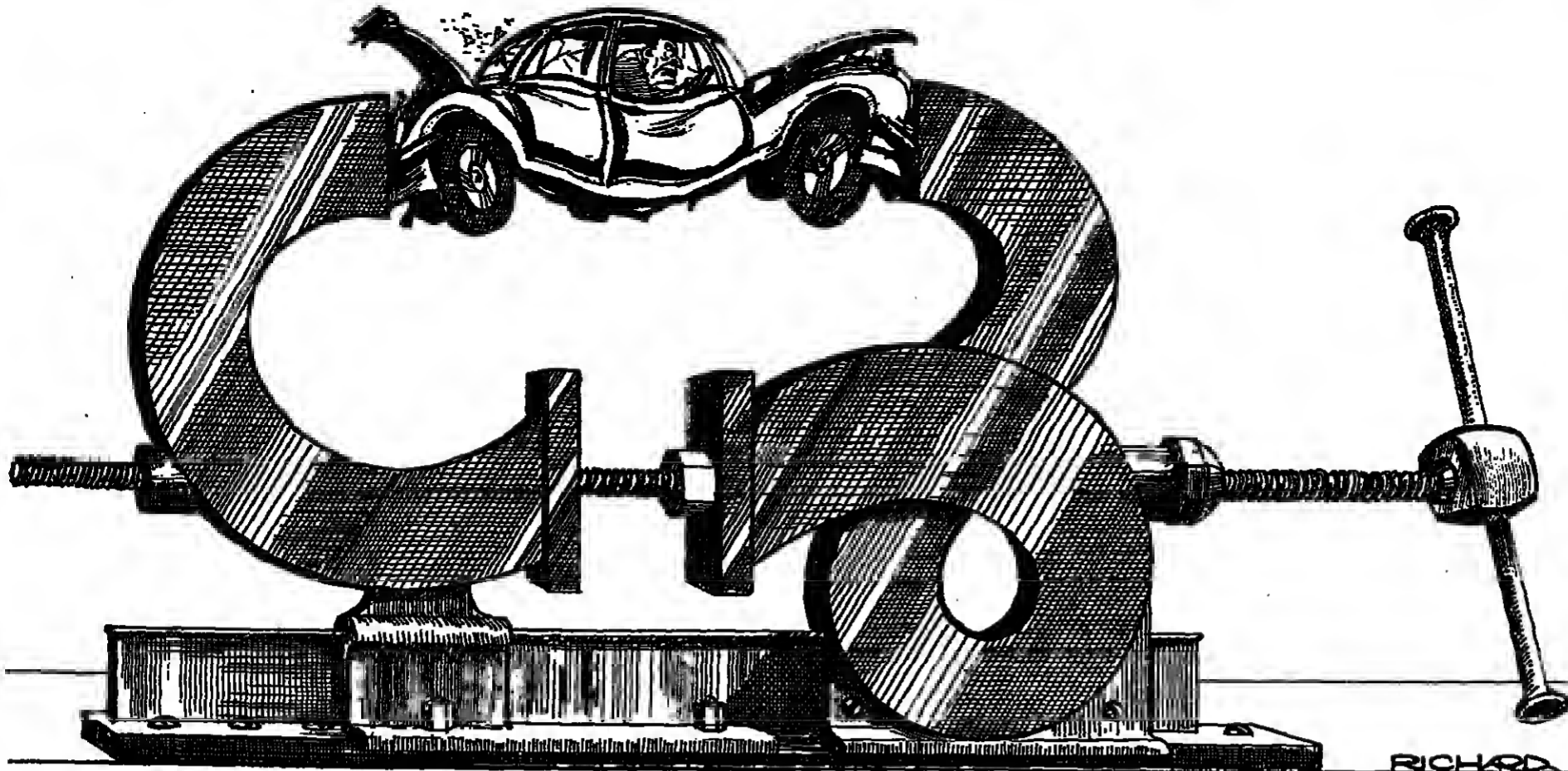


AIDS. YOU'RE AS SAFE AS YOU WANT TO BE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ABOUT AIDS, FREEPHONE THE 24-HOUR NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE ON 0800 567123

SPECTRUM

Time to put on the big clamp



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF A TRAFFIC JAM

The view from the Area Traffic Control unit in New Scotland Yard is enough to give the meekest man a sense of god-like omnipotence. Without even approaching the window, he can see the state of the roads at 65 of the capital's most crucial junctions...

Whatever long-term strategy the Government adopts to combat expensive congestion on London's roads, it must begin by ensuring that the existing system is operating at maximum efficiency. Improving existing traffic management will be even more important if the Government continues a policy of mend and patch.



GETTING LONDON MOVING

Part 5: Parking and traffic management

way in the Kent sector of Greater London, where transporters have been fitted to buses to turn traffic lights green as they approach. Initial results show a 30 per cent increase in bus predictability and a 40 per cent cut in costs.

In the final part of the series on the capital's transport, Paul Valley finds agreement on harsher penalties for illegal parking

The only immediate solution, most planners believe, is a severe crack-down on illegal parking which, according to the Metropolitan Police, is becoming more reckless as congestion increases.

licences could be renewable annually; those who haven't paid fines would not be allowed to renew their licences. If that fails, there is always the Singapore deterrent: those with three outstanding fines for breaking restraint laws have their cars confiscated.

Beryl Arnold, the Met's senior civil servant on traffic control, says the police are uncomfortable about the idea. "Parking fines would become a civil debt. People would get a shock when the bailiff arrived if they hadn't paid, but this would mean that the offence would become decriminalized - we feel it is already viewed too casually that way," she says.

In which areas would you most want to improve enforcement? Would privatized wardens be more effective? The practical policy will never be consistent until that fundamental issue is sorted out.

There are similar conflicts of interest in many areas of London's transport sector. "It is only coincidence when everyone pulls in the same direction," says Dr Phil Goodwin, of the Transport Studies Unit at Oxford University.

Professor John Hibbs, of Birmingham Polytechnic, a free market advocate of road pricing, says: "The GLC's solution was to sling money at everything, but there was something to be said for what they were aiming to achieve if not for the way they tried to do it."

Advertisement for Drambuie liqueur, featuring a bottle and the text 'This Christmas give the most acceptable liqueur in the world.'

Next year's hot news

Everything seems to be happening a little early in the Press this year. Books of the Year have been selected, News Reviews of the Year have appeared, hideous Christmas presents for Him and Her have been recommended, and Peter Bottomley has made his annual appeal against drink-driving. It can be only a matter of days before the News At Ten camera crew wends its way to Oxford Street for the annual filming of the first self-publisher to start queuing for the January sales.



CRAIG BROWN

of Edwina Currie will soon be sweeping the country, and calls for urgent action. But fellow Conservative MP Terry Dicks, interviewed by Les Dawson on TV's Blankety, Blank programme, maintains that Dickens "is just out for cheap publicity", a statement for which he is roundly condemned by Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP, live from his own all-singing, all-dancing show at The Empire, Wigan.

again, recklessly climb into their vehicles. "By pushing them instead, you can make a major contribution to road safety, as well as freeing the atmosphere from petrol pollution." March 28: The Social and Liberal Democrats call off their election for a new leader after Paddy Ashdown reminds them that they already have one. At a major rally attended by more than a fifth of his parliamentary party and close relations, Mr Ashdown makes a major policy statement. "Our unity lies in our vision of the future," he says forcefully, "and our future lies in the unity of our vision. And, what's more, I tell you this, our vision lies in our future of unity."

Advertisement for NSPCC, featuring a photo of a child and the text 'For this lonely, neglected little boy Father Christmas exists. If you've got £20.66 to spare, it's you.'



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

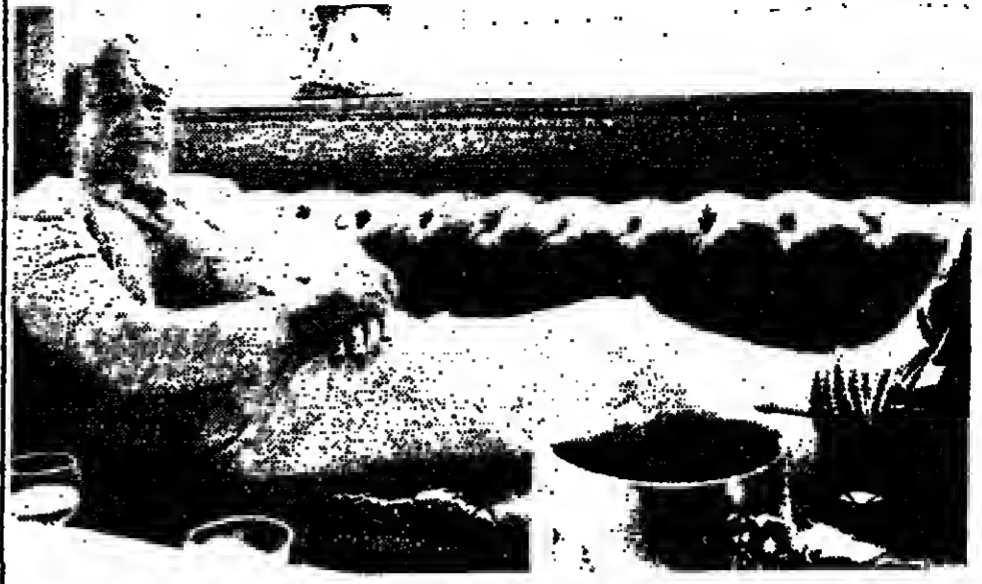
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
Subsequently His Royal Highness, President, The Prince of Wales' Advisory Group on Disability, attended a reception to mark the publication of the report 'Living Options Lottery' at London Weekend Television, South Bank Television Centre, Kent House, Upper Ground, SE1.

SCIENCE REPORT
All in the best possible taste

Research is providing clues about what goes on inside the cells of the tongue to tell us when we have bitten into something bitter.
Researchers at Columbia University in the United States have shown that the level of calcium inside some taste cells rises sharply when they are treated with denatonium, the most bitter substance known to man.

OBITUARIES
PETER LANGAN

Restaurateur who catered for celebrities - and became one himself



Peter Langan, who died in hospital on December 7, after suffering from burns occasioned in his Essex home, was a larger-than-life restaurateur known throughout the West End. He was 47.

Birthdays today



Dame Judi Dench, actress, 54
Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 38
Viscountess Beaufort, 77
Sir Billy Bremner, footballer, 46

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Everleigh and Mrs Miss C.A. Harper
Mr M.G. Greenfield and Mrs S.L. Ripley
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Major B.G.N. Everleigh and the late Mrs Doreen Everleigh of Seaview, Isle of Wight, and School Avenue, Gosport, and Miss S. Harper, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Harper, of Kirkcaldy, Fife.

JOHN MORGAN
Versatile television journalist and writer



John Morgan, the broadcaster, who had a successful career in television journalism on current affairs programmes such as Panorama and Tonight, and played a key role in the creation of Harlech Television, died from cancer on December 7 at the age of 59.

Receptions

HM Government
The Princess Royal was Guest of Honour at a reception hosted by the Secretary of State for Employment, the Right Honourable Norman Fowler, at Lancaster House, SW1, on Wednesday, December 7, for the 101 winners of the 1988 Fit For Work Awards.

Parties

'Not Forgotten' Association
The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the 'Not Forgotten' Association, cut the Christmas cake at the annual Christmas party for disabled ex-Servicemen and women held at the Royal Riding School, Woking, Surrey, on Wednesday, December 7.

SIR IVO MALLET
Envoy in Madrid in the chilly Franco years

Sir Ivo Mallet, GBE, KCMG, who was British Ambassador in Madrid between 1954 and 1960, died in Switzerland on December 7 at the age of 88. He had been an Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office in 1949 and from 1951 to 1954 was Ambassador to Yugoslavia.

Anniversaries
Deaths: Sir Anthony van Dyke, painter, London, 1641; Dame Edith Sitwell, London, 1964; Karl Barth, theologian, Basel, 1968; Ralph Bunche, diplomat, Nobel Peace laureate 1950, New York, 1971.

Dinners

Fan Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual livery dinner of the Fan Makers' Company held last night at the Mansion House.

Memorial services

Miss Sheila Scott
A service of thanksgiving for Miss Sheila Scott was held yesterday at St Michael's Cornhill. The Rev David Burton Evans and the Rev John Scott, Chaplains to the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, officiated.

HERMÈS FOR HER
179-180 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9QP 01-823 1014.
155 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PA 01-499 8856.
3 Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LL 01-626 7794.

Lost Touch?
Do you long to know what happened to an old school friend? Have you lost touch with a member of your family? A Christmas approach to you is to be reunited with someone you mean a lot to you, but you don't know where to write?

FRIDAY PAGE

Why Mrs Thatcher may have to deal Britain the identity card to save us from the new barbarians

Mrs Thatcher has referred the idea of identity cards for all of us to a committee of chief constables. They are said to be in favour of a voluntary card but unsure about a compulsory one, which would give them all sorts of enforcement headaches. Actually, what I would worry about, were I a chief constable, was best expressed in an old cabaret skit popular during the last years of Stalin.

The skit shows a security guard chatting to a worker arriving for his shift. The two, who have known each other for 30 years or so, exchange anecdotes about their children, wives and rheumatism. But, familiarity notwithstanding, the worker has forgotten his identity card and is turned away. As soon as he leaves another fellow approaches pulling a placard marked "Spy". "Papers?" asks the security guard in a bored fashion. The man pulls a document out of his star-spangled pocket and is admitted.

Foolproof devices, such as the mooted identity cards with their computer strips of information, may be counter-productive. Wrongdoing that could have been

detected by ordinary police legwork may yield to a sort of technological laziness as police rely on computers to do the work for them. Perfectly respectable people may have difficulty getting into their jobs or streets on which they live because they have left their cards at home, while criminals flash forged ones.

Human beings, after all, are an ingenious lot. Intellectual and philosophical problems may faze us, but when the problem is overcoming some new advance in technology, we excel. There are only greater or lesser physical obstacles. This applies to good and bad humans equally, of course, but the criminal mind surmounts the barriers with amazing dexterity. I remember when North American police brought in X-band radar that fired in bursts and was thought to be impervious to radar detectors. It was only a matter of six months before drivers were installing the new radar busters in their cars.

The standard arguments against an identity card are familiar to most people and most of the arguments have some force. It is claimed that they strike at the heart of the free society and are a bad

bargain to boot since they will not deter criminals. Civil libertarians also fear that as medical, employment and possibly tax and criminal records all become accessible to civil servants under one neat number, the identity card will be used to keep track of citizens. These arguments have raged in most of the EEC countries that have such cards (only Ireland, Holland, Denmark and the UK do not).

Still, there are sticky points to be faced by those of us who recoil from the identity cards. It is foolish to pretend that problems of bootlegging, opportunistic burglary, random violence and so on are not increasingly a part of our society. I suppose if one steps back and looks at the situation, it is clear that the problems we face are the natural outcome of this

century's attempts to take the brakes off. The class system, for better or worse, ensured that people knew their place in society. All sorts of principles and beliefs, some of them buried very deeply in our being, used to govern people. They came up in everyday phrases. Some behaviour was "not a Christian thing to do", or "a gentleman wouldn't do that". But noblesse oblige, for example, cannot govern when there is little that is noble.

Once these restraints disappeared, the great question was finding something to replace them. When people are no longer held in check by the class system, the advances of 19th-century liberalism may leave us with laws that are inadequate to govern their behaviour. Chaos and anarchy threatened and the most ob-

vious solution, unfortunately, was called statism in its many manifestations from identity cards on. This is the heart of our dilemma.

Of course, speaking for myself, I can't help but be relieved that the class system has lost its grip. In that society, people carried their identity cards not only in the clothes they wore on their backs but in the way they held a fork or the lines etched in their faces. Good riddance. But what is to replace it?

Britain's contemporary statism may have curbed the rights of whole classes of people from doctors to property owners, but I still prefer contemporary Britain to Edwardian times. Mrs Thatcher has rolled back some of the worst aspects of left-wing statism, such as confiscatory taxation but, alas, is now proposing to replace them either with the excesses of right-wing statism (identity cards) or those things on which the left and right agree, such as censorship. The perimeters for behaviour have been disassembled in the 20th century as we changed the nature of the family and the

grip of the class system. But perimeters are like a vessel - unless you have them it is not easy to drink.

I suppose, in the end, all one can ask is that people be fully informed of the costs and benefits of policy and make up their minds what they wish to sacrifice. That is what I always liked about Churchill: he promised nothing but blood, sweat and tears and the British people agreed the bargain was worth it. We need some controls today or life is filled with skinheads and hooligans and the petty crime that makes social existence very hard indeed.

Mrs Thatcher seems to think she can resuscitate some of the old restraints, such as family and peer values, and I can only wish her luck. But my own feeling is that once certain things are gone they are finished and we have to play out the string.

From classism to statism does not seem that much of a bargain to me, but if a society is free and informed of the cost, ultimately one can only bow one's head in submission as the policy choices are made - or emigrate.



BARBARA AMIEL

Red Square to the quad

Juras Banys, Olga Beloded and Dmitri Subbotin are all agreed on their first impressions of Oxford University: "Drunk students everywhere". To be seen drunk on campus at a Soviet university, they say, would be the end of one's university career.

Glenn came to the Cherwell in October when the first group of nine Soviet students arrived for a year's research, having survived selection from a huge number of applicants, a rigorous interview with Oxford academics in Moscow, and the intricacies of Soviet bureaucracy.

It seemed unlikely when the scheme was launched this February by George Soros, a Hungarian-born American businessman, that it would get off the ground the same year, but an appeal by Sir Geoffrey Howe and a summer thaw in Moscow's relations with Britain precipitated the students' October arrival.

Olga, from Kiev, is a student of English linguistics at Lady Margaret Hall. Her fluent English and positive manner are the hallmarks of five years spent in New York, where her father was a United Nations delegate. Her parents were delighted that she was coming to Oxford. The others said that their relatives' enthusiasm had been tinged with worry that they would be so far away and fears that Britain was violent.

Dmitri studied economic planning at Moscow University, but since he arrived at New College he has strayed into the more capitalist realm of management and business studies. He has discovered rowing and the college bar, where his dead-pan wit ensures him an audience.

American and Canadian students are easier to get to know than the British, he finds. "When you are introduced to a British person, they say 'Nice to meet you, my

name is...' and that's the end. Americans always start up a conversation, even if it is just to tell you how great America is - but it's a start."

Dmitri also has a sharp eye for the ideological differences that pervade academia. "When we have lectures here, the accent is always on productivity and technological know-how. They don't discuss whether this way is good, whether it is bad, just does it work and how do you do it."

The Soviet economy, Dmitri says, is in dire need of such pragmatism, and Gorbachev's perestroika will enable it to change from the centralized rigidity of the Seventies to a new, more flexible basis of financial accountability.

"You can see most things from the top of a mountain, but you must also be able to take decisions further down, and that means redistributing power." He is clearly confident of a future at the forefront of such changes.

Some of his ideas would receive a standing ovation at the Conservative Party conference, an idea which he dismisses with a wave of the hand: "If people work less hard, they should receive less wages. There must be encouragement if we are to compete economically."

Juras is a research physicist

from Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, and is currently at Christ Church studying phase transitions. For non-physicists he adds, trying to be helpful: "Lattice dynamics and soft modes." He has the sombre mien and glasses which abound among his physicist peers and is softly spoken, given to sudden excited outbursts, mostly about phase transitions. Only the Lithuanian accent betrays that he is not a Northern grammar school boy. He thinks Christ Church is one of the best colleges, and enjoys formal hall and wearing a gown. But he adds mournfully: "If I get one more question about what is happening in the Baltic republics..."

Olga recently visited the Oxford Union and had her first introduction to public schoolboys. "I went to a debate and heard all of these very young men in suits speaking and I just thought: 'My God, these people are undergraduates - they must have some really great background to be able to present themselves like this!'"

Oxford and Cambridge were known to them as names from their school days. "We always read that you had to be in the upper classes and very rich to come here and that it was only for an elite, but I think it is only an intellectual elitism here," says Olga.

Were Soviet students ready for Gorbachev's reforms? "They were starving for him," Olga says. "The ideas that ferment in your head can be quite different to the ideas that you are taught. It is much more difficult for those who lived under Stalin to adjust to the new ways. They always insist that life was very good then. It wasn't like that with Brezhnev at all."

All three are supporters of the reforms, critical too of their own lack of commitment and political timidity. "We are



Ambassadors of glasnost: Juras Banys, Olga Beloded and Dmitri Subbotin exploring Oxford, their stepping stone to success at home in the Soviet Union

quiet supporters. Much talking, less doing. I am afraid my friends and I all fall into this group," Dmitri says.

In Lithuania, according to Juras, everyone will tell you that they are for reform even if they harbour secret doubts or outright animosity. "It is the new Soviet problem," he says. "You never know whether reform is on their tongues or in their hearts."

The students recently met Sir Geoffrey Howe, who had speeded their passage through the labyrinths of Moscow bureaucracy. "It was a very nice tea," says Olga casually. Sir Geoffrey talked to Juras about the Baltic Republics. Everybody does. "Since I arrived two months ago the Communist Party secretary has changed in Vilnius and the Lithuanian Communist Party's policies

have changed. Already, you can do a lot of things without going through Moscow, but we want to do more alone, politically and economically. For the first time, Lithuania has a future."

They regard the student protests which are an integral part of British university life with wry good humour. Juras says that in the Baltic republics now, students are at the forefront of the protests and are the real revolutionaries. "They're not very revolutionary here," Olga interjects. "It's more like 'Let's go to a demo and see our friends.'"

"A game for a few years," says Dmitri. "It helps that British students live away from home, which is not normal in the Soviet Union. It's difficult to demonstrate if you have to go back to your parents' flat."

Olga thinks it is good that students try to influence the

Government, "but when Mrs Thatcher gets something into her head, they can bump their heads on her door for ever and it won't help."

She has tried to follow British politics without much success. "The debates just sound crazy to us, more like squabbling. We can't relate very well to that sort of politics. It's a cultural as well as an ideological divide. You

might try to treat British friends as Russians, but at some stage it doesn't work."

They will return to the Soviet Union next year to prepare their theses for the prestigious Candidate of Sciences examination. Afterwards, Olga and Juras will continue research and Dmitri hopes to go to a ministry or the state bank. If Gorbachev's train of progress and intellec-

tual candour stays on the rails, their future is bright. Olga is already a party member, Dmitri and Juras hope to join. For ideological or career reasons?

"It is simple. All of the good academics I know are in the party. That is the way to change things," says Dmitri. "The party is a little bit like Oxford - how do you say it? - 'The cream of the cream.'"

visiting art galleries was always a pleasure. Now I'm blind it's also my career.

After 20 years of falling eyesight, William Kirby, a successful Art College lecturer, was registered blind in 1981. Attending an RNIB business training course convinced Bill he could use his experience and skills to show art galleries how to cater for blind people. RNIB also supported his applications for grants which enabled him to start his own business. Today that business is thriving.

But giving such help is expensive. Please send whatever you can. And help blind people realise their full potential.

Please accept this donation to RNIB.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Credit card donations: Call Sheila Butler on (01) 388 1266.

Royal National Institute for the Blind

Post to: RNIB
224 Great Portland St.
London W1N 6AA

RNIB

ON MONDAY: the Bishop of London talks to Barbara Amiel

American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft Account

With effect from 9 December 1988 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Personal Reserve Overdraft accounts has been increased to 1.78 per cent per month, and the Agreements with all holders of such accounts will be so varied.

Effective Annualised Interest Rate 23.5 per cent

American Express Bank Ltd.
Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Connecticut, U.S.A.

New Woman

The truth about SEX, SUCCESS AND SINGLE WOMEN. A special survey.

Beware of KEPT MEN. The ones who keep you in love - and debt!

Sexual intrigue in RACHEL BILLYARD'S brilliant short story.

THE BEAUTY REPORT. Who's tallest with - or do they?

Do you make strong men feel weak?

Enemies at work - your worst one could be YOU!

1989 What's in it for you? Patric Walker's HOROSCOPE SPECIAL.

"I LOVE YOU," he says, but is he on the rebound?

The magazine with your name on it

OUT NOW

RNIB - Helping blind people to see a future

TEMPUS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GrandMet strategy is hard to fault

Grand Metropolitan's results — pre-tax profits were up 26 per cent to £575 million — were not only good, but also ahead of market expectations. And had it not been for adverse exchange rates, profits would have been up 32 per cent.

But it takes more than that to interest the City these days. The reward for Mr Allen Sheppard, the chairman, is another 4p off his share price to 444p, and he must be wondering what he has to do to improve the rating of his shares.

It is certainly hard to fault the strategy or the profits performance. Profits from the drinks division, which comprises 55 per cent of the total, rose 23 per cent. Food — British foods and US petfoods — rose 22 per cent and comprise 14 per cent of the total. Retailing, which ranges from British public houses to eyecare, rose 12 per cent.

The final stages of the disposal of non-core businesses yielded extraordinary profits of £290 million. The sale of the Inter-Continental hotel chain will add another £500 million plus this year.

The balance sheet has also been restructured, bringing gearing down to 22 per cent from 57 per cent last year. Brands to the value of £588 million have been brought on to the face of the balance

sheet, a property revaluation has added more than £640 million to fixed assets, while net borrowings have been almost halved to £750 million.

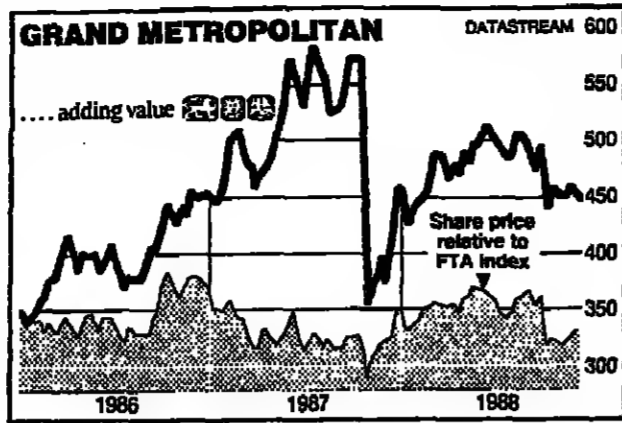
The proposed acquisition of Pillsbury, the US Burger King group will, if successful, increase the international dimension of GrandMet very considerably in two of its core areas — food and retail, enhancing the group's long-term earnings potential.

The uncertainty over whether this hotly-contested bid will succeed is casting a shadow over sentiment. But no US takeover has failed due solely to the operation of the management's poison pill, and with 88.3 per cent of stock tendered, it is only a matter of time before the US group is in GrandMet's bag.

But investors waiting for the acquisition to be finalized before buying the shares could miss the boat. GrandMet's rating on this year's forecast pre-tax profits is a mere 8.5, while the yield is 5 per cent. The shares, which have barely kept pace with the market in the last year, deserve to be more highly rated.

Pilkington

The City was distinctly underwhelmed by Pilkington's half-time profits. And as long as it allows analysts to persist with the blinkered view



that it is a building materials share, it will continue to be on a hiding to nothing when only 1 per cent of sales come from the British new homes market.

This year has been a vintage one for most companies linked to the residential building boom. Compared with the 40 to 60 per cent profits rises reported by many companies, Pilkington's 14 per cent rise looks pedestrian. Earnings per share showing a half-penny rise to 11.5p are also nothing much to excite.

But on closer scrutiny, the results are much better. And the shares, down 14.5p to 193p, are set to make lots of money for canny investors in the next three years.

The gloomy knee-jerk response by the market ignores basic factors. First, Pilkington is re-aligning the year-ends of

important acquisitions to its own March year-end. So six-month contributions in the last half-year have been compared with nine months previously. Adjusting for these, and negative currency factors, earnings per share were far from static, showing an underlying improvement of about 20 per cent.

Secondly, profits have soared from £111 million in 1986 and the interim should be seen simply as a pause on the way to greater things.

The US operations, where Visioncare ranks as the world's number two contact lens maker, is set for substantial growth. Libby Owens Ford, which has had a grim trading period, is responding well to reorganization and is poised for profits improvement.

New capacity is badly

needed around the world in flat glass, for the group is working to capacity. In perhaps three years more production will be on stream from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, West Germany and Britain, boosting profit potential.

This year, group profit is set for about £335 million and the shares sell for less than seven times prospective earnings. When the market latches on to the next profits leap in a few years, the best buying opportunities will be long gone.

FKI Babcock

FKI Babcock issued paper near the top of the market last year and has never been forgiven by the underwriters. Mr Tony Gartland, the chief executive, reckons 10 per cent of the group, as enlarged by the takeover of the larger Babcock boiler and contracting group, may still be owned by institutions that never intended to take the stock.

A few more made their exit yesterday. Pre-tax profits of £50 million for the half year to end-September were higher than most forecasts, indicating underlying profit growth of about a quarter. This was greeted by an initial 3p rise in the shares to 131p, followed by a swift descent to 121.5p.

Profits should reach £110 million pre-tax for the full

year. That would value the shares at only 6.3 times earnings of about 19.3p per share, on a temporarily low tax charge, or 7.1 times after a more realistic 30 per cent charge.

The businesses are not the most inspiring. Making brass fittings for furniture in the US is rated one of the most promising, and the contracting side is short of a couple of big orders. But that is still cheap for a company bought for its management.

The trouble is the low rating created by its own disappointment yesterday. Mr Gartland has aimed to produce 25 per cent compound growth, 10 per cent organic and 15 per cent from acquisitions. Yet FKI confessed its rating rules out big deals for shares. High interest rates make big cash bids trickier too.

With gearing down below 10 per cent, the balance sheet can easily take small bolt-on acquisitions to boost growth by 5 per cent, and turnover is running about 13 per cent up. But it will be hard to manage the big deals needed to attain the target of 25 per cent plus.

The shares are evidently good value. But they will surely need a dividend yield higher than the prospective 4.3 per cent suggested by the interim dividend rise.

Profits edge ahead at Illingworth Morris

Illingworth Morris, the specialist textile group, best known for the production of cloth for tennis balls and billiard table covers, has increased pre-tax profits from £4.32 million to £4.55 million on turnover up from £46.68 million to £47.71 million in the six months ended September 30.

Two months ago Illingworth Morris abandoned takeover talks with Allied Textiles, but it is believed that Mr Alan Lewis, the chairman, who speaks for 51 per cent of the company, is still seeking a takeover. Earnings per share have risen from 6.8p to 7.2p. The interim dividend remains at 1.5p.

BLP in call to Archer shows fund US deal

BLP Group, the Unlisted Securities Market quoted wood laminates maker buying Woodtape Group, a US veneer manufacturer, for \$10 million (£5.45 million). There will be an initial payment of \$8.44 million, made through the issue of 1,352 million new shares and \$5.17 million in cash. The company also announced a two-for-seven rights issue at 99p, to raise \$3.2 million net towards financing the cash element of the deal.

Stubs Welding resold

James Wilkes, which makes promotional products and beer mats, is selling Stubs Welding, a welding products distributor, for £6.04 million to Forestman, a British subsidiary of Glotrade of Switzerland.

James Wilkes bought Stubs Welding two weeks ago as part of the £6.95 million acquisition of Peter Stubs from James Neill. James Wilkes said that before Forestman's unsolicited offer it had had no plans to sell the subsidiary. Stubs Welding had pre-tax profits of £392,000 on turnover of £4.0 million during the nine months ended September 30. Net tangible assets were £114,000.

Food group dips to £2.1m Board change at news group

Hunter Saphir, the food, contract transport and distribution group, unveiled a fall in pre-tax profits due to reorganization and a shift in balance of earnings to the second half, from £2.43 million to £2.1 million for the six months to September 10. Turnover remained little changed at £91.49 million. Earnings per share fell from 5.35p to 4.40p. The interim dividend remains at 1.35p.

BMP surges to £5m

A full contribution from Ammirati & Paris, the Madison Avenue, New York, advertising agency acquired for \$31.8 million (£17 million) last summer, was largely responsible for doubling profits at Boase Massimi Pollitt, the advertising and marketing servicing group. Pre-tax profits rose from £2.1 million to £5.05 million for the six months to end-June, on turnover up from £58.33 million to £135.61 million. Earnings per share rose from 8.3p to just 11.45p due to an extraordinary item of £1.18 million for merger costs. The interim dividend was raised from 2.25p to 2.75p per share.

Sound Diffusion blow for Tunstall

By Wolfgang Münch

The problems at Sound Diffusion, the electrical leasing company which called in the receivers on Tuesday, have led to a £6.5 million below-the-line writedown at Tunstall Group, the Yorkshire producer of emergency communications equipment, which holds 6.9 million shares in the company.

The official receivers, Mr Christopher Morris and Mr Tony Houghton, of Touche Ross, the accountant, said yesterday "on present information, the publicly quoted shares of Sound Diffusion have no value." They added that the group's main activities should cease and said 350

employees were to be made redundant.

For Tunstall, there was further bad news when it announced pre-tax profits down from £5.84 million to £4.97 million for the year ended September 30, despite a 35.6 per cent increase in turnover to £39.98 million. Its shares dropped 15p to 250p.

The company blamed disruptions at Tunstall Security and Tann-Synchrom during their integration into Tunstall's Cleveland site for the erosion of profitability.

Earnings per share rose to 21.5p from 21.4p. A first dividend of 2.5p makes 4p, up 0.75p on last year.

Buoyant Lovell ready for decline in housing

By Our City Staff

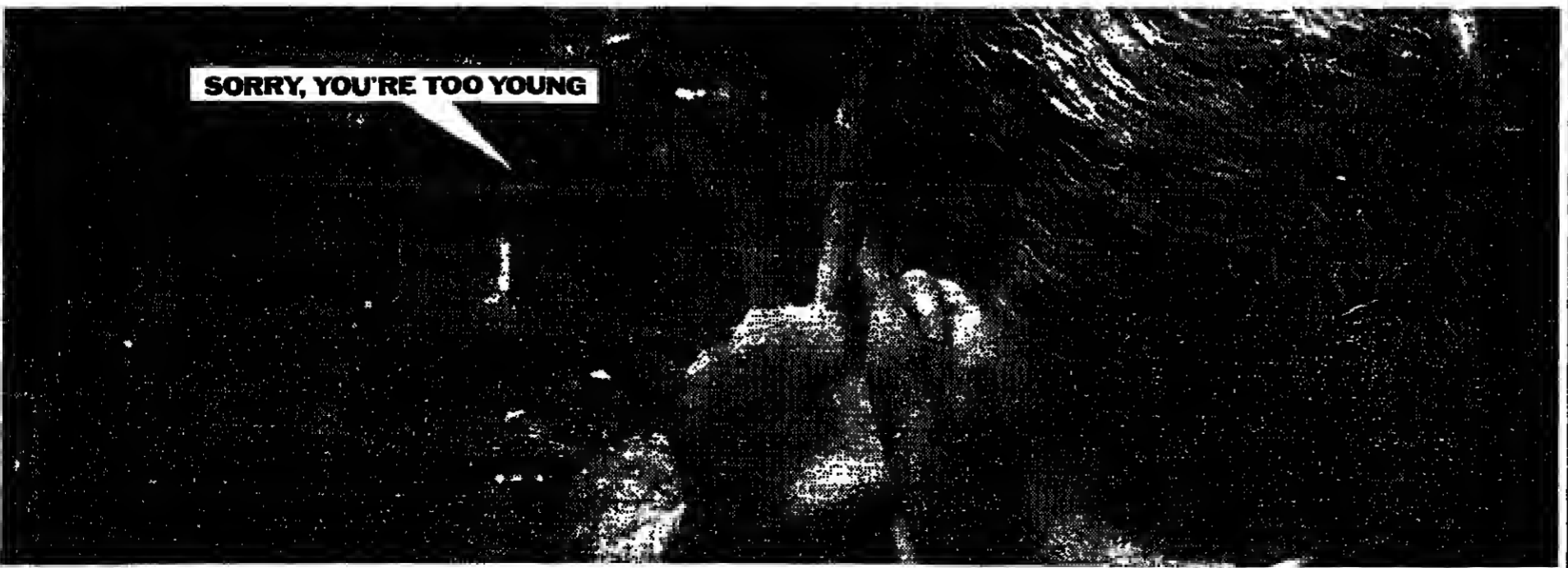
YJ Lovell, the housebuilder and commercial developer, has announced a 51 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £16.21 million to £24.43 million in the year to September 30.

Turnover during the period grew from £323.75 million to £382.71 million. Earnings per share have increased from

20.6p to 28.0p. The final dividend is 5.15p per share, making 6.65p, an increase of 33 per cent on last year. The company anticipates a reduction in demand for private housing.

However, it hopes this will be offset by a stronger performance in its construction and urban renewal divisions.

Upsetting children can save a tobaccoconist £400.



If someone apparently under 16 asks for a packet of cigarettes, tobaccoconists must say no. The penalty for saying yes could be a fine of up to £400. ISSUED BY THE TOBACCO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE BRITISH TOBACCO INDUSTRY



NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, 9th December, 1988, its Branch Standard Rate is increased from 27% to 29% p.a.

(Branch Standard Rate is charged on borrowings arising without arrangement. Any such borrowings regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974 are also varied accordingly.)

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

See W to £10
Thorn falls to excite with £0.5m first half

Shearson delivers bad news

S&W Berisford profits rise to £101m after reshuffle

S&W Berisford, the sugar and commodities group, lifted pre-tax profits by 16 per cent to £101 million after heavy restructuring last year.

The group sold about 20 companies for £40 million and spent a similar amount on acquisitions.

Further businesses to the value of £100 million have been identified as ripe for disposal.

Mr Peter Butler, a financial director of the group, said: "We had a good clear-out last year, and we have taken all the hits below-the-line to get us to

where we want to be for the future."

As a result, the group had an extraordinary charge of £35 million, most of which was losses on closures, reorganizations and disposals. In addition, there was a charge of £2.1 million incurred in defending itself against a takeover by Mr Gary Weston's AB Foods.

AB Foods bid 400p a share for S&W just before the stock market crash, and then withdrew its offer. AB still has a 23.7 per cent stake in the group, for which it paid less than 300p a share. S&W

Berisford's shares closed at 390p last night.

Mr Butler said: "We've been a very good investment for Gary Weston, but if he bids again, he won't get us for what he bid the last time." AB Foods has been free to bid again since last month.

The food division, accounting for 57 per cent of the group's business, saw profits rise by 38 per cent. Profits at British Sugar, which dominates the food division, rose by 14 per cent.

In commodities, the company said it was now con-

centrating on the key agricultural products of coffee, cocoa and sugar, and the remains of the metals trading business.

S&W said that although the results from the financial services division had been reduced as expected, from £27.4 million to £5.6 million, they had improved substantially in the second half.

Due to a significantly higher tax charge, earnings per share advanced just 9 per cent to 35.6p, and the dividend was increased by 11 per cent to 15.5p net per share.

Chrysalis profits collapse

Chrysalis Group, the record company, has reported worse than expected pre-tax profits for the 14 months to August 31 of £1.81 million, down from £7.26 million in the previous 12 months.

Clitcorp Springmount Vickers, the company's broker, had forecast £2.5 million. The final dividend is cut by 3p to 2p, making a total of 4p (7p).

In July, Mr Chris Wright, the chairman, said poor third-quarter figures from the US record division and reduced property activity would mean lower profits. The share price fell another 5p to 102p.

Demand for HK Telecom

The 575 million share placement by Hongkong Telecommunications, 79 per cent owned by Cable and Wireless, was heavily oversubscribed. Institutions took up 445 million, and the 130 million placed with the public were more than seven times oversubscribed.

Scapa pegged

Scapa, the engineering group, saw nearly £2 million trimmed from interim pre-tax profits by sterling's strength in the first half of the year. At £18 million, they were held to an 11.3 per cent rise. Earnings per share rose 12.6 per cent to 12.5p, and the payout by a similar amount to 2.54p net.

Bid advisers

Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation, fighting a takeover bid from Rodamco, the Dutch investment group, has appointed Phillips & Drew, the broker, and Jones Lang Wootton, the surveyor, as additional advisers.

Iceland offer

Iceland Frozen Foods, the frozen food chain, which has launched a £240 million hostile bid for the Bejam Group, said it had received acceptances representing 6.52 per cent of Bejam's share capital.

Greycoat rise

Greycoat Group, the property developer, pushed pre-tax profits up 66 per cent to £10.4 million in the first half. The interim dividend is 2p (1.6p).

Bond issue

Associated Newspapers Holdings has arranged to issue £60 million in Eurosterling bonds, convertible into Reuters 'B' ordinary shares.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Opponents determined to kick the Abbey habit

The Abbey habit, at least the one practised by the board, is to defend the decision to go for incorporation and a stock market listing, when all the other leading building societies have either abandoned or shelved their plans to do likewise. This is not to say that the other building societies will not follow Abbey down the primrose path to stock market stardom, but that they have decided if they cannot be first, they may as well wait to see how Abbey gets on before committing themselves.

On January 10, Abbey will disclose the outline of the conversion scheme, setting out who will be getting what. There will then be roadshows in 15 cities across Britain, which will be used by Abbey to promote the conversion but equally by the schemes vociferous opponents to sink it. In March, the prospectus will be issued and then the vote taken. Finally, terms will be set for flotation.

Abbey has a huge task on its hands, and circumstances are not flowing in its favour. The directors, under Sir Campbell Adamson, have to persuade more than a million investors to put a cross on a ballot paper, and 750,000 of them not only to vote, but also to vote in favour of conversion to plc status. They also have to collect a majority of the borrowers' votes.

But shareholders in Abbey will be denied the excitement of a bid premium for five years, as under legislation the society cannot be taken over in that period. Certain Abbey executives are thinking about how they can engineer a longer term bid immunity. They want the freedom of the market, but do not like the look of its disciplines.

In order to have any hope of doing that, they will need to build up a head of publicity steam, and that process should be beginning now, for the scheme is due to be unveiled in one month's time. But at the same time, Abbey has to prevent a rush of hot money into the society. The members currently own the society, and it is worth £2 billion. That value will have to be shared out among the members, and although there will be a "cut-off" date after which new members will not gain any share of the accumulated value, it may not yet have passed.

If that idea gains ground with the board, the best thing they could do is advise members to vote against the conversion plan. Life as a mutual society may be dull, but at least it effectively insulates the management from the threat of a hostile bid. And maybe that is why no other society is yet following Abbey's lead.

JM in uncharted waters

Sir Michael Edwards' appearance as chairman at Charter Consolidated, following his arrival at Minorco to oversee the ConsGold bid, meant the departure of Neil Clarke as deputy chairman and chief executive and left his position at Johnson Matthey anomalous at the very least.

Mr Clarke says his departure from an executive role at Charter only reinforced his independence at Johnson Matthey. But if Mr Clarke no longer represents Charter, will Sir Michael seek somebody who will?

rating for a big acquisition for paper next year, despite unused borrowing facilities of more than £300 million.

This will most likely extend the industrial applications of the precious metals division in Europe and the US, although the inclusion of a long presentation on the group's biomedical activities suggested an involvement in pharmaceuticals as an outside bet.

Johnson Matthey is pausing for breath after the Herculean recovery over the past three years from the mire of JM Bankers' near-collapse. Interim profits are a mere 3 per cent higher at £31.5 million, after several million trimmed by a weak dollar and low platinum prices, and the dividend is stuck at 2.5p. Forecasts of £65 million and upwards this year suggest an earnings multiple of well over 13, and indications are that Eugene Anderson, the chief executive, is set to use this high

Meanwhile, Cookson Group waits in the wings with an as yet unexplained 6.3 per cent stake — just enough to block a full takeover by Charter.

Sir Michael's known dislike of passive shareholdings suggests Johnson Matthey will either move further into the group or further away, although the advantages of either are not clear. The test could come with any rights issue to fund a big purchase, which Charter could either underwrite to increase its stake or use to dilute it.

Until then at least, investors holding on for a bid are likely to be disappointed.

Thorn fails to excite with £95m first half

Uneasy equity markets greeted booming profits from Thorn EMI with a 6p fall in the share price to 619p.

A gloomy mood brought on by a strong pound, profit-taking and the backwash of Morgan Grenfell's problems overshadowed Thorn's 57 per cent rise in profits, a 25 per cent lift in the interim dividend and a 45 per cent advance in earnings per share. Shareholders collect an interim dividend of 7.5p per share compared with 6p last time.

Sir Graham Wilkins, the chairman, described the figures as "the best first-half results ever achieved" by the consumer electronics, music and microchips group.

Profits rose to £95.2 million compared with £60.7 million last time. All of the mainstream businesses performed well, he said. Inmos, the troubled microchip operation, maintained its recovery. The technology companies, which include Inmos, raised trading profits from £8.4 million to £18.2 million.

A buoyant performance from Thorn's lighting operations was one of the highlights of the half-year, he added. Trading profits of the consumer and commercial division climbed from £7.6 million to £11.2 million.

There was a sharp upturn in the group's volatile music division, with trading profits surging from a depressed £2.2 million on sales of £314 million to £11.6 million from turnover of £341 million. In rental and retail operations, profits rose from £57.3 million to £64.6 million.

For some time Thorn EMI has been aiming to improve the international strengths of its core businesses. The strategy is being maintained by high levels of investment, organic growth and selected acquisitions.

The lighting business has been strengthened by the purchase of Holoptane in France and the lighting interests of Howard Smith Industries in Australia. Two rental businesses, in Australia and Hong Kong, were bought in September. The group's software interests has been expanded with acquisitions in the US and Germany and Kidde Automated Systems gives Thorn's security business a foothold in North America.

Osborne & Little rises 15%



Material gain: Sir Peter Osborne at the company's King's Road shop yesterday

Osborne & Little, the London fabric designer and manufacturer, pushed up pre-tax profits in the first half by 15 per cent to £967,000. The shares gained 2p to 200p.

The company plans to buy the leasehold of its showrooms in King's Road, Chelsea, for £200,000 from Sir Peter Os-

borne, chairman, and Mr Antony Little, co-founder. It is closing its Conduit Street sale-room which will be sold because of expanded space in the King's Road.

Sales in the six months to September 30 rose from £5.1 million to £5.7 million. About a third of turnover is overseas and with US sales improving by 60 per cent the American

branch has now become profitable.

The interim dividend has been increased from 1.7p to 2p. Earnings per share went up from 7.8p to 8.8p.

The company, which recently transferred from the USM to a full quote, charged the £49,000 costs of its move as an extraordinary item.

BP invests £135m in Indonesian coal

British Petroleum is investing £135 million for a half share to exploit new Indonesian coal reserves.

Analysts believe the venture could be one of the most highly-profitable yet for BP which also has coal mining interests in the US, Australia and South Africa.

The new surface mine, near Balikpapan, is expected to produce 7 million tonnes of premium coal a year for export to Europe and Pacific

Bank gives UB bid assurance

The Royal Bank of Scotland has reassured United Biscuits, one of its main customers, that it will not instigate a bid for it nor help finance a bid attempt by a company which is not a customer of the bank.

The assurance, given at a meeting between Sir Hector Laing, chairman of UB, and Sir Michael Herries, the bank's chairman, is some way from Sir Hector's original request for a commitment from the bank not to support any bid for UB, but he says he is satisfied with the assurance.

Farm threat to Gatt breakthrough

From Bailey Morris Montreal

European and US negotiators were unable to achieve an agreement on agriculture after a heated all-night negotiating session which cast a pall over the four-day meeting of world trade ministers.

The deadlock dominated the talks, despite an historic breakthrough in achieving an agreement that would extend world trade rules to services accounting for more than 20 per cent of international transactions.

Senior Ricardo Zerbino, chairman of the talks, made a surprise decision to extend them by a day as the deadlock persisted. Strong doubts remain whether any agreements reached in Montreal, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, would be finalized without a breakthrough on agriculture, as the US continued to insist on language that would result in total elimination of agricultural subsidies.

Shearson delivers bad news

Being able to ride a motorbike could soon be a prerequisite for a job at Shearson Lehman, the American investment bank. Yesterday the firm got rid of all its messengers in a bid to reduce its fixed costs. Shearson was quick to point out that this move was the result of long-standing negotiations, and that of the 20-or-so messengers shown the door, half-a-dozen would now be employed by City Messengers, an independent courier firm, which will be under contract to Shearson. "We have simply contracted our messenger service out," says Laurie Adams, chief lawyer and administrative officer. "All of them have technically been made redundant." All that is, except Roger Gambrell, the head messenger, who is being returned to co-ordinate the new service. "It will allow us to be more flexible," says Adams. "Increasing the number of messengers we use when times are busy and reducing them when times are not. But we may well ask the odd staff member to pop something in the postbox on his way home." Shearson denied that it had also laid off some of its office managers.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Help to break the spell

The City Diary likes to offer a service to its readers. So, can anyone help Peter Pollard, the head of credit with Lloyds Bank head office, in the heart of the Square Mile? His problem is quite simple. How do you spell organization — or is it organogram? He called me yesterday to help solve the problem which has split his staff. They have been using

Services to tourism

Surprising though it might sound, Lord King, the larger-than-life chairman of British Airways, clearly sees himself as following in the footsteps of Thomas à Becket. A regular Church of England-kind of man, the connection comes not from his religious beliefs but from his involvement in tourism. Speaking at a Faith in Tourism Conference in London this week, and following the present-day Archbishop of Canterbury on to the platform, Lord King pointed out that the whole business of tourism in England was, after all, started by a famous predecessor of the Primate's. "Although King Henry II played some part in the shameful events involved in getting rid of the priest he found so troublesome, it was Archbishop à Becket himself who — from beyond the grave — actually started tourism." The reason for this was that the first tourists were, he said, the pilgrims who flocked in their thousands to Canterbury after à Becket's death. "I suspect, too," Lord King added, "that from the very beginning there were meetings of the sort which we are having today to discuss how the pilgrimages should best be managed, because if Geoffrey Chaucer is to be believed there were some rum goings-on on the way to Canterbury!"

Third men

Whoops! Plastic sheeting manufacturer Wardle Storeys, currently locked in an acrimonious £80 million bid battle for Armstrong Equipment, proudly declares itself "Good Industrial Managers" at the

Square deal

Profits across the City may be down, but giving to charity is booming. That wood-paneled dining club, The Square Mile Club, in Appold Street, yesterday handed over a cheque for £10,000 to Sister Joan of the St Joseph's Hospice in Mare Street, Hackney. The money, which was raised throughout the year by sponsored runs, race nights and donations, was exactly double the amount raised last year and will help towards the hospice's £1 million a year running costs.



"Eleven more chopping days to Christmas"

● Graffiti beneath a shop window in Flash Walk, Hampstead, which sells nothing but personal organizers, reads: "Why plan ahead when a quick bout of panic will do?"

Carol Leonard



IT'S NOT ALL WE'VE BEEN GROWING THIS YEAR.

"Berisford is now following a clear-cut business strategy. The organisational structure is in place with a top management team. The Group is therefore well placed to meet the challenges of the next decade."

E S Margulies Chairman

| Summary of Results | 1988 £m | 1987 £m | % Increase |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Profit before tax | 101.6 | 87.5 | +16 |
| Earnings per share | 35.6p | 32.7p | +9 |
| Dividend per share | 15.5p | 14.0p | +11 |

S. & W. BERISFORD PLC

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OFFER DOCUMENT (THE "LISTING PARTICULARS") DATED 6TH DECEMBER, 1988, WHICH COMPRISES LISTING PARTICULARS RELATING TO COMPASS GROUP PLC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LISTING RULES MADE UNDER SECTION 142 OF THE FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT 1986 (THE "FSA"). A COPY OF WHICH HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES FOR REGISTRATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 149 OF THAT ACT.

APPLICATION HAS BEEN MADE TO THE COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND LIMITED FOR ALL THE ORDINARY SHARES OF 5P EACH IN THE COMPANY, ISSUED AND TO BE ISSUED, TO BE ADMITTED TO THE OFFICIAL LIST THE APPLICATION LISTS FOR THE ORDINARY SHARES NOW BEING OFFERED WILL OPEN AT 10.00 A.M. ON TUESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER, 1988 AND WILL CLOSE AS SOON THEREAFTER AS LAZARD BROTHERS & CO. LIMITED MAY DETERMINE.

COMPASS GROUP PLC

Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985 with registered no. 2090126

OFFER BY

LAZARD BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED

of 24,673,550 Ordinary Shares of 5p each at 245p per share payable in full on application

SUMMARY

Compass Group PLC (the "Company") was formed to acquire the contract services division of Grand Metropolitan PLC. The acquisition was completed in July 1987 in what was the largest UK-funded management buy-out at the time. The Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") is primarily engaged in the provision of contract services to a wide range of industrial and commercial customers. Its activities are organised into three divisions:

- Compass Services is the Group's major operating division and is one of the two largest contract catering businesses in the UK. It contributes approximately 75 per cent. of trading profits. It provides a comprehensive range of catering and restaurant services, together with certain other services, through approximately 2,500 trading outlets primarily in the UK.
- Compass Healthcare, which is the sixth largest commercial UK private hospital operator, owns and manages six modern hospitals principally in southern England; and
- Rosser & Russell is a long-established business which provides advanced mechanical and electrical contracting and maintenance services to the commercial property sector.

OFFER STATISTICS

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Offer price per Ordinary Share | 245p |
| Number of Issued Ordinary Shares following the Offer | 64,446,866 |
| Market capitalisation at the Offer price | £157.9 million |
| Percentage of the enlarged share capital being offered | 38.3 per cent. |
| Net proceeds receivable by the Company | £55.2 million |
| Historic pro forma earnings per share for the financial period ended 25th September, 1988 | 12.4p |
| Historic pro forma price earnings multiple at the Offer price | 12.6 times |
| Notional historic dividend per share for the financial year ended 25th September, 1988 | 7.2p |
| Notional historic gross dividend yield at the Offer price on the basis of the notional historic net dividend of 7.2p per share | 3.9 per cent. |

TRADING RECORD

The last five financial years have seen a marked improvement in turnover and profitability within the principal activities of the business. In the financial year to 25th September, 1988 the Group achieved an operating profit of £24.7 million against break-even for the year to September, 1984.

The trading record of the Group for the five financial years ended 25th September, 1988 is summarised below:

| | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Turnover | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Operating profit | 197.6 | 208.6 | 222.6 | 254.4 | 276.9 |

The following tables give an analysis of the Group's turnover and operating profit by division for the five financial periods ended 25th September, 1988.

| | Year ended September | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1984 | 1985 | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |
| By turnover | £m | £m | £m | £m | £m |
| Compass Services | 179.4 | 184.9 | 198.9 | 216.3 | 227.4 |
| Compass Healthcare | 2.8 | 5.3 | 7.8 | 11.0 | 14.8 |
| Rosser & Russell | 15.4 | 18.4 | 15.9 | 27.1 | 34.7 |
| By operating profit | 197.6 | 208.6 | 222.6 | 254.4 | 276.9 |
| Compass Services | 0.7 | 7.7 | 9.6 | 13.8 | 18.5 |
| Compass Healthcare | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.5 | 3.7 |
| Rosser & Russell | 11.2 | (2.4) | (1.6) | 1.5 | 2.5 |
| | 0.0 | 5.9 | 8.7 | 16.8 | 24.7 |

Note: The turnover and operating profit of the Group set out above are based on the assumption that the Group had been in existence throughout that period.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

- The contracts arising from acceptance of applications will be conditional on the Ordinary Shares, issued and to be issued, being admitted to the Official List of the Stock Exchange not later than 31st December, 1988 and on the Offer Arrangements referred to in "Offer Arrangements" in the section headed "Further information" of Part IV of the Listing Particulars not being terminated in accordance with its terms. Cheques or banker's drafts for the amounts payable on application may be presented for payment before such conditions are satisfied and the application moneys represented thereby will be held by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, in a separate bank account and, if such conditions are not satisfied, will be returned (without interest) by crossed cheque in favour of the applicant(s) by post at the risk of the applicant(s). It is expected that the Ordinary Shares will be admitted to the Official List on 21st December, 1988.
- Preferential consideration will be given to applications on Preferential Application Forms for Employees received from eligible employees ("employees' preferential applications") for themselves only for an aggregate maximum of 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares (4.1 per cent. of the Ordinary Shares now being offered).
- Subject to these terms and conditions, Lazard Brothers, for itself and as agent for the Company, reserves the right to reject in whole or in part or to scale down any applications including, in particular, multiple or suspected multiple applications, and to present for payment any cheques or banker's drafts on receipt. If any application is not accepted, or is accepted for fewer shares than the number applied for, the application moneys, or, as the case may be, the balance thereof, will be returned (without interest) by sending the applicant's cheque or a crossed cheque in favour of the applicant(s) by post at the risk of the applicant(s).
- Applications (other than employees' preferential applications) must be made on the accompanying Application Form. By completing and delivering an Application Form, the person(s) named in Box 4 and Box 6 (if applicable), as the applicant(s) and, in relation to paragraphs 1(i) and 1(j), you, as signatory if you are an applicant:
 - offer to acquire the number of Ordinary Shares specified in your Application Form (or such smaller number (or which the application may be accepted) at the Offer price and on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein (of which the Guide to completing the application form forms part) and subject to the Listing Particulars and the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company;
 - authorise National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, to send on behalf of Lazard Brothers and/or the Company, as appropriate, a Letter of Acceptance for the number of shares for which your application is accepted and/or a crossed cheque for any money returnable, by post, at the risk of the applicant(s), to your address (or, in the case of joint applicants, to that of the first-named applicant) as set out in your Application Form; and to procure that your name (together with the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is/are placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such shares the entitlement to which has not been duly renounced and, pending such registration, to procure that the name of Lazard Brothers (or any nominee or nominees of Lazard Brothers) is/are placed on such register of members at bare trustee for you in respect of any such Ordinary Shares or, if you renounce your right to any of such Ordinary Shares, in relation to the Ordinary Shares the right to which has been so renounced, the person(s) from time to time entitled to become the registered holder of such shares in accordance with the terms of the Letter of Acceptance;
 - agree that, in consideration of each of Lazard Brothers and the Company agreeing that it will not prior to 31st December, 1988 sell or, as the case may be, allow any of the shares offered to any person other than by means of the procedures referred to in the Listing Particulars, your application may not be revoked until after 31st December, 1988 and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between you, Lazard Brothers and the Company which will become binding on despatch by you to or, in the case of applications delivered by hand, receipt by National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, of the Application Form;
 - warrant that your renunciation will be honoured on first presentation;
 - agree that any Letter of Acceptance to which you may become entitled and moneys returnable to you may be retained pending clearance of your renunciation;

- agree that in respect of those shares for which your application has been received and is not rejected, allocation of such shares to you shall be conditional, at the election of Lazard Brothers either by notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation (in which case allocation shall be on that basis) or by the determination of the number of shares to be allocated pursuant to the arrangements made between Lazard Brothers, National Westminster Bank PLC and the Company;
 - agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the Offer shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, English law and that you submit to the jurisdiction of the English courts;
 - warrant that, if you sign the Application Form on behalf of somebody else, you have the authority to do so;
 - confirm that in making this application you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to the Company or to any other member of the Group other than such as may be contained in the Listing Particulars and you accordingly agree that no person responsible solely or jointly for this document, or any part thereof, shall have any liability for any such information or representation;
 - warrant that no other application (not being an employees' preferential application) is being made by you for your benefit or by another on your behalf and with your knowledge for such purpose or, if you are applying as agent or nominee of another, no other application is being made for the benefit of that person by you, or, as far as you are aware, by that person or by any other person, and that other person, not, in your knowledge, acting in concert with any other person or persons as aforesaid; and
 - warrant that you are not a US person (which expression shall mean any individual who is a national, citizen or resident of the United States of America or its possessions and territories or in any event such person as, in the relevant territory, such an aviator or officer could lawfully be contained in the Listing Particulars and you accordingly agree that no person responsible solely or jointly for this document, or any part thereof, shall have any liability for any such information or representation.
5. The basis of allocation will be determined by Lazard Brothers in its discretion after consultation with the Company. An applicant may be allocated new shares allotted by the Company and/or shares sold by Lazard Brothers pro rata (as nearly as practicable) to the number of shares so allotted and sold or, if you are applying as agent or nominee of another, in its absolute discretion determine and announce at the same time as the announcement of the basis of allocation of the shares subject to the Offer. In accordance with the normal principles of English law, the remedies available to persons contracting with the Company in relation to new shares may differ from those available to persons contracting with Lazard Brothers in relation to shares sold by Lazard Brothers.
6. No person receiving a copy of the Listing Particulars or an Application Form in any territory other than the United Kingdom may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such form unless, in the relevant territory, such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other regulatory or legal requirements. Any person outside the United Kingdom wishing to make an application hereunder must satisfy himself as to full observance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consents which may be required and compliance with any other requisite formalities, and paying any issue, transfer or other taxes due in any such territory.
7. The shares which are being offered have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Accordingly, such shares may not be offered, sold, retransferred, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to, or for the benefit of, any US person or to any person purchasing such shares for re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer to the United States or to, or for the benefit of, any US person as part of the distribution of such shares. The terms and conditions of application incorporate a warranty that the applicant is not a US person and is not applying on behalf of, or with a view to re-offer, sale, renunciation or transfer to, or for the benefit of, any US person. Registration applications forms on Letters of Acceptance will contain a warranty to the same effect by or on behalf of the person in whose names the shares are to be registered.

GUIDE TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

- Insert in Box 1 (in figures) the number of Ordinary Shares for which you are applying. Application must be for a minimum of 200 Ordinary Shares or in one of the following multiples:
 - for not more than 1,000 shares, in a multiple of 200 shares
 - for more than 1,000 shares, but not more than 10,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares
 - for more than 10,000 shares, but not more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares
 - for more than 100,000 shares, in a multiple of 50,000 shares
- Put in Box 2 (in figures) the amount of your cheque or banker's draft. The amount of your cheque or banker's draft should be 245p multiplied by the number of Ordinary Shares inserted in Box 1. For example:

| Number of Ordinary Shares | Amount you must pay |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 200 | £490 |
| 400 | £980 |
| 1,000 | £2,450 |
| 5,000 | £12,250 |
| 10,000 | £24,500 |

- Draw and sign the application form in Box 3.
- The application form may be signed by someone else on your behalf if duly authorised to do so. Persons signing on behalf of applicants who are individuals must enclose the relevant power of attorney for inspection. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official whose representative capacity must be stated.
- Put your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4.
- Applications may not be made by persons under the age of 18.
- Applications may not be made payable to National Westminster Bank PLC for the amount payable on application inserted in Box 2 and should be crossed "Not negotiable—Compass Offer". No receipt will be issued for this payment, which must be solely for this application.
- You must attach a cheque or banker's draft payable to National Westminster Bank PLC for the amount payable on application inserted in Box 2 and should be crossed "Not negotiable—Compass Offer".
- You may apply jointly with up to three other persons. You must then arrange for the application form to be completed by or on behalf of each applicant. Their full names and addresses should be put in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 6.
- Box 7 must be signed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (other than the first applicant who should complete Box 4 and sign in Box 3). Persons signing on behalf of applicants who are individuals must enclose the relevant powers of attorney for inspection.

*You must send the completed application form together with the cheque or banker's draft by post to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 33, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2DB or deliver it by hand, to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, 2 Princes Street, London EC2 2AS so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th December, 1988.

"In view of the Christmas post, you are encouraged to deliver your application form by hand, if possible.

"If you post your application form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two business days for delivery.

*Photostat copies of application forms will not be accepted.

MULTIPLE OR SUSPECTED MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS MAY BE REJECTED IN THEIR ENTIRETY.

BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

The application lists will open at 10.00 a.m. on 13th December, 1988 and will close as soon thereafter as Lazard Brothers may determine. The basis on which applications have been accepted will be announced as soon as possible after the application lists close. It is expected that temporary documents of title, in the form of renounceable Letters of Acceptance, will be issued to successful applicants by not later than 19th December, 1988 but will not be negotiable until 21st December, 1988. Dealings in the Ordinary Shares are expected to commence on 21st December, 1988. Dealings prior to receipt of renounceable Letters of Acceptance will be at the risk of applicants. A person so dealing must recognise the risk that an application may not have been accepted or the interest anticipated or at all.

A successful applicant may sell or otherwise dispose of some or all of the Ordinary Shares in respect of which his application has been accepted by execution of the form of renunciation on his Letter of Acceptance and delivery of the Letter of Acceptance to the transferee.

Arrangements have been made for registration of all Ordinary Shares now offered, free of stamp duty and registration fees, in the names of purchasers or persons in whose favour Letters of Acceptance are duly renounced provided that, in cases of renunciation, Letters of Acceptance (duly completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein) are lodged for registration by 3.00 p.m. on 29th January, 1989. After this time, an instrument of transfer must be used. Share certificates will be despatched by first class post on or before 29th February, 1989.

Up to a total of 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares (representing 4.1 per cent. of the number of Ordinary Shares being offered) will be reserved in the first instance to meet applications on preferential application forms from employees of the Group.

Copies of the Listing Particulars can be obtained from:
Compass Group PLC, Queen's Wharf, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 9RJ
Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited, 21 Moorfields, London EC2P 2HT
James Capel & Co. Limited, James Capel House, 6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JQ
and the following branches of National Westminster Bank PLC:
London New Issues Department, P.O. Box 79, 2 Princes Street, London EC2P 2BD
London New Issues Department, P.O. Box 33, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2DB
Birmingham City Office, P.O. Box 87, Colmore Centre, 103 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3NS
Bristol City Office, P.O. Box 238, 32 Corn Street, Bristol BS99 7UG
Cardiff P.O. Box 117, 117 St. Mary Street, Cardiff CF1 1LG
Edinburgh 80 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3JZ
Glasgow 14 Blythwood Square, Glasgow G2 4AQ
Leeds City Office, P.O. Box 154, B Park Row, Leeds LS1 1QS
Manchester City Office, P.O. Box 305, 55 King Street, Manchester M60 2DB
Newcastle upon Tyne 24 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1YW
Nottingham P.O. Box 21, 3 Thurland Street, Nottingham NG1 3DT
and from Ulster Bank Limited, Personal Investment Unit, 88-90 High Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT1 2EL.

APPLICATION FORM

COMPASS GROUP PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales No. 2090126)

Offer by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited of 24,673,550 Ordinary Shares of 5p each in Compass Group PLC at 245p per share, payable in full on application.

- I/we offer to acquire:
 1. Form No. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
- and I/we attach a cheque or banker's draft payable to National Westminster Bank PLC crossed "Not negotiable—Compass Offer" for the amount payable, namely:
 2. Acceptance No. 3. Shares allocated
- Dated: _____ 1988
 4. Amount received 5. Amount payable
- PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Mr, Mrs, Miss or title
Forename(s) in full
Surname
Address in full
Postcode
 6. Amount returned 7. Cheque No.
- PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Mr, Mrs, Miss or title
Forename(s) in full
Surname
Address
Postcode
Signature
- PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS
Mr, Mrs, Miss or title
Forename(s) in full
Surname
Address
Postcode
Signature

Fill in the following section only when there is more than one applicant. The first or sole applicant should complete Box 4 and sign Box 5. Insert below only the name(s) and address(es) of the second and subsequent applicant(s), each of whose signature, or the signature of the person signing on their behalf, is required in Box 6.

Before making any application to acquire any Ordinary Shares you are recommended to consult an independent financial adviser authorised pursuant to the Financial Services Act 1986.

You must send this completed application form together with the cheque or banker's draft by post to National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 33, 153-157 Commercial Road, London E1 2DB, or so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 13th December, 1988. Any person signing this application in accordance with the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 for inspection.

If you post your application form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two business days for delivery. In view of the Christmas post, you are encouraged to deliver your application form by hand, if possible.

NEW YORK

Dow under pressure as dollar declines

(Reuters) - Blue chips managed to recover some of their earlier losses in early trading, but remained under pressure amid continued declines in the dollar. Investors focussed on interest rate worries after the excitement of the Soviet defence cuts announced on Wednesday abated.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 2.67 points in early trading to 2,150.96.

TOKYO

Nikkei below 30,000

(Reuters) - Share prices slumped on heavy profit-taking after Wednesday's late surge through the Nikkei index's 30,000-point level for the first time.

The Nikkei index fell 391.92 points to 29,758.90. It soared to a record 30,050.82 on Wednesday.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for Dec 7, Dec 8, Dec 9, Dec 10, Dec 11, Dec 12. Lists various stocks and their percentage changes.

Next jumps on buyout hopes

A depressed stores sector suddenly sprang to life when shares of Next, the high street and mail order fashion specialist, rallied strongly in late dealings from a new low level for the year of 123p to close 10.5p higher on the day at 135p.

Almost 7 million shares changed hands as the market heard that Mr George Davies, the chairman, and Mr David Jones, a director, had bought 100,000 and 150,000 shares respectively at 135p a share on December 2.

The news and rumours that Mr Davies had been in the market acquiring more shares yesterday prompted the sudden burst of buying activity as dealers speculated that their actions were the prelude to a management buyout.

Next shareholders have had a torrid time this year, watching their shares plummet from the January level of 292p to 123p. The final straw was last week's fall of 20p on one day following Mr Davies' warnings that pre-tax profits this year would be significantly lower than last and there may only be modest growth in 1989-90.

However, analysts were sceptical as to whether a management buyout was possible.

Elsewhere, share prices drifted lower in nervous trading conditions amid widespread rumours that another big securities house would follow Morgan Grenfell's lead and withdraw from market-making today, at the end of the current account.

Stories that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was about to re-

STOCK MARKET



Speculators have piled in since on hopes that the long-awaited bid for Ultramar will at last materialize. Whispers in the market suggest the cash-rich Mr Marcel Dutil, head of Novoro, wants to get his hands on Ultramar's eastern Canadian retail operation and is prepared to launch a break-up takeover bid of 330p-plus per share in order to do so.

Although Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand entrepreneur, recently increased his stake in Ultramar to 14.1 per cent, it is widely known that he has no intention of launching a bid and is a willing seller at £3 a share.

Blue Arrow, the world's biggest employment agency headed by Mr Tony Berry, succumbed to renewed selling pressure and dropped a further 2p to a new low for the year of 82p.

British Land's shares look oversold at 337p, down a further 2p, says Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, and stands on a 27 per cent discount to its new estimated current net asset value.

More than 10 million shares changed hands as the "sell" recommendation made by Phillips & Drew, its own broker, in the wake of Mr Mitchell Fromstein's abrupt departure this week from its US Manpower operation, continued to take its toll.

Blue Arrow recently advanced to 100p amid speculation that a management buyout was being put together in America by Mr Fromstein.

Half-time profit slip at Walter Alexander

Walter Alexander, the Scottish industrial group whose interests cover coachbuilding to home textiles, showed a £510,000 fall in pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September to £1.91 million.

Turnover slipped from £48.81 million to £45.18 million, with earnings per share falling from 5.8p to 4.6p.

The interim dividend is unchanged from last time's 1.8p.

Full-year dip

Carr's Milling Industries, the flour milling to agricultural products group, showed a dip in pre-tax profits for the year to September 3 from £2.09 million to £1.87 million. Sales climbed from £67.08 million to £73.01 million, with earnings per share falling from 29.6p to 20.8p. The final dividend is 5.75p (5.50p), making 7.50p (7.25p).

The current controversy over eggs triggered by the comments of Mrs Edwina Currie, about most of the country's egg production being infected with salmonella led to renewed selling of Hillsdown, which derives 2 per cent of its pre-tax profits from egg production, and its shares closed down 6p at 240p.

Delgaty, the international food and farming supplies group, was similarly affected and dropped 10p to 287p. However, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, rates the shares a buy. It has one of the highest yields in the food sector and a modest p/e rating and therefore looks attractive.

Geoffrey Foster

Syltone ahead

Syltone, the Bradford engineering holding company, saw pre-tax profits rise for the six months to end-September from £725,000 to £854,000 on turnover up from £12.48 million to £13.60 million, earnings per share rising from 11.0p to 13.6p. The 4p interim dividend is unchanged.

Phoenix rises

Phoenix Timber Group saw pre-tax profits for the six months to end-September climb from £831,000 to £995,000. Turnover rose from £21.11 million to £30.48 million, with earnings per share up from 6.1p to 6.7p. The interim dividend is 1.1p (1.0p).

Brewer buys

Boddington, the brewing group, is paying £4.75 million for Bentley's of Piccadilly. The deal includes 14 of the 15 restaurants formerly operated by Bentley's in central London before the business was placed in the hands of joint administrative receivers.

Seibu move

Seibu Saison, the Japanese company buying Grand Metropolitan's Inter-Continental Hotels, will set up a subsidiary in Amsterdam next week to finalize the acquisition with a \$2.15 billion (£1.16 billion) payment.

ALPHA STOCKS

Table with columns for Vol '000, Vol '000, Vol '000, Vol '000. Lists various stocks and their volume.

Fimbra hails new council

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

The inaugural meeting in Tokyo this week of a council launched to boost the flow of information between the world's leading bodies of securities dealers was hailed as "a very timely initiative" and "a dramatic success" by Lord Elton, chairman of Fimbra.

Fimbra, Britain's Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, is a founding member of

the group, named the International Council of Securities Dealers Associations.

Its aim is to swap information, tips and ideas, although it might mature into something more substantial.

"We see the world's markets depending more and more on the efficient exchange of information," Lord Elton said. "It is a very constructive step to bring regulators together to es-

tablish mutual confidence. If dealers in other countries are acting in suspected breach of their regulations, the quicker we hear about it the quicker we can check their subsidiaries in the UK and do something about it."

He said such an exchange would also help curb "regulatory arbitrage", where dealers move to the country offering the freest regulatory climate.

Advertisement for Johnson Matthey featuring the logo and text: 'BUILDING FOR GROWTH'. Includes a list of business highlights and a table of financial results for 1988 and 1987.

Large advertisement for Gardner Merchant contract catering. Features the headline 'Contract catering' and text describing the company's services, staff size, and contact information.

CBI backs up claim over pay

By Our Economics Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry has produced evidence to back up its claim that industry pay awards are not inflationary.

Productivity growth over the past year was greater than that of pay settlements, the CBI said in the latest edition of its Employment Affairs Report.

The results showed that in the 12 months to the third quarter, growth in manufacturing productivity had averaged 9.7 per cent, compared with average pay settlements in the quarter of 6.3 per cent.

Government may discard detailed trade statistics

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The Government may end the compilation of Britain's overseas trade statistics in their present form, Mr Francis Maude, a junior Department of Trade and Industry minister, said.

Mr Maude, addressing the annual Statistics Users Conference in London, said the usefulness of detailed trade statistics must be balanced against collection costs.

The annual cost of collecting and publishing Britain's overseas trade statistics is about £10 million, and the Government questions the usefulness of persisting with a detailed breakdown of Britain's overseas trade when European Community barriers fall in 1992.

The Government needs overall balance of payments information, he said, but does not require a detailed breakdown on the performance of British industry in different areas and products.

"I question whether taxpayers' money should be spent collecting information that the



Cost-effective: Francis Maude of the Department of Trade

Government does not need itself in order to meet the needs of industry and commerce," Mr Maude said.

But the proposal was attacked by Mr Ian Maclean of Business and Trade Statistics Limited. He said that 80 per

cent of British companies made use of the detailed overseas trade figures and cited the success of the Japanese economy, which is based on detailed knowledge of individual product markets.

The prospect of scrapping detailed overseas trade figures comes when the Government has been seeking to play down the importance of the current account deficit, set to reach £15 billion this year.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has said that the deficit is not a matter of concern and hinted that the official figures are unreliable. But Mr Bruce Buckingham, a senior Central Statistical Office official, said there is no evidence that the figures overstate the size of the deficit.

Part of the reason may be the removal of distortions in the tax system. The ending of 100 per cent first-year capital allowances in the 1984 Budget has reduced the incentive to invest for tax reasons. Since 1982 investment has grown at an average of 5 per cent a year.

Land-Rover chief to leave group

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Tony Gilroy, the managing director of Land-Rover who has led the company to record profits and output, is to leave the company in the new year "consequent upon organizational changes within the Rover Group," a Land-Rover spokesman said yesterday.

His departure follows the appointment of Mr George Simpson, who formerly reported to Mr Gilroy, to the post of managing director of Rover.

Mr Graham Day, the group chairman, said: "Tony Gilroy has made a major and valuable contribution."

"The Rover Group board wishes to record its appreciation of Tony's achievements," he said.

Land-Rover profits are this year expected to surpass last year's £22.5 million, with unit sales of Land-Rovers and Range Rovers likely to exceed 43,000.

Mr Gilroy, aged 52, who has been managing director since 1983, was not available for comment but it is understood that he does not have a new job to go to.

French to create jobs at former De Lorean plant

By Robert Rodwell

Montpet, the French car components manufacturer, plans to convert the former De Lorean car plant at Dunmurry, outside Belfast, into an aluminium foundry, initially to supply light-alloy cylinder head castings for car engines to Ford's Bridgend factory in South Wales.

Heads of agreement have been signed under which the French firm will take over the premises, idle since 1982, and the formal contract signing is expected before Christmas.

NI Industrial Development Board officials are quietly confident of securing the £30 million project which has been one of the most attractive "mobile" manufacturing investment schemes mooted around Europe and has provoked intense competition. Up to half the money will come from public funds.

The aluminium foundry will result in the creation of several hundred jobs close to the most depressed areas of West Belfast, such as the Twinbrook district adjoining

the 76-acre Dunmurry site. Conversion to Montpet's requirements will begin almost immediately after the deal is signed.

The ready availability of the premises, which are owned by the IDB, was an important factor behind Montpet's decision because the foundry is required to be in production within about 18 months, in phase with the introduction of Ford's new Zeta range of low-pollution engines, a project which is now running about 2½ years behind schedule.

The Belfast foundry is to be scaled to meet far more than Ford's Bridgend demands - Montpet hopes to win business from other car makers planning to establish UK engine plants, such as Nissan and Honda, while Dunmurry will also produce cast aluminium wheels.

Montpet currently employs 2,500 people at plants in France, Spain and Canada, where it diescasts light-alloy heads for Ford's US assembly lines.

Venture Plant to seek £4.6m USM flotation

By Rosemary Unsworth

Venture Plant, a specialist of construction activity in the South east, including Docklands and the development of the Channel Tunnel, will be capitalized at £1.2 million.

Pre-tax profits last year were £958,000 and the historic price earnings ratio is 11.5 times on the basis of after-tax profits of £623,000.

The group, which believes it will benefit from the high level

of construction activity in the South east, including Docklands and the development of the Channel Tunnel, will be capitalized at £1.2 million.

The business was part of Tilbury Group for 30 years until 1987 when there was a management buyout which expanded the plant hire side.

The placing is being carried out through Laurence Prust at 95p a share.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns: First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Dealings, For Settlement. Lists various companies and their option prices.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Series, Call, Put. Lists various companies and their option prices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns: EQUITIES, Apollo Watch, BMSS, etc. Lists recent equity issues.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table with columns: Rights Issues, Amerover N/P, Elect Mach N/P, etc. Lists rights issues.

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company. NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER. Includes details about share warrants and company information.

National Westminster Bank PLC. NatWest announces that with effect from Tuesday, 3rd January, 1989, its Credit Zone Rate is increased from 18.5% to 20.5% p.a.

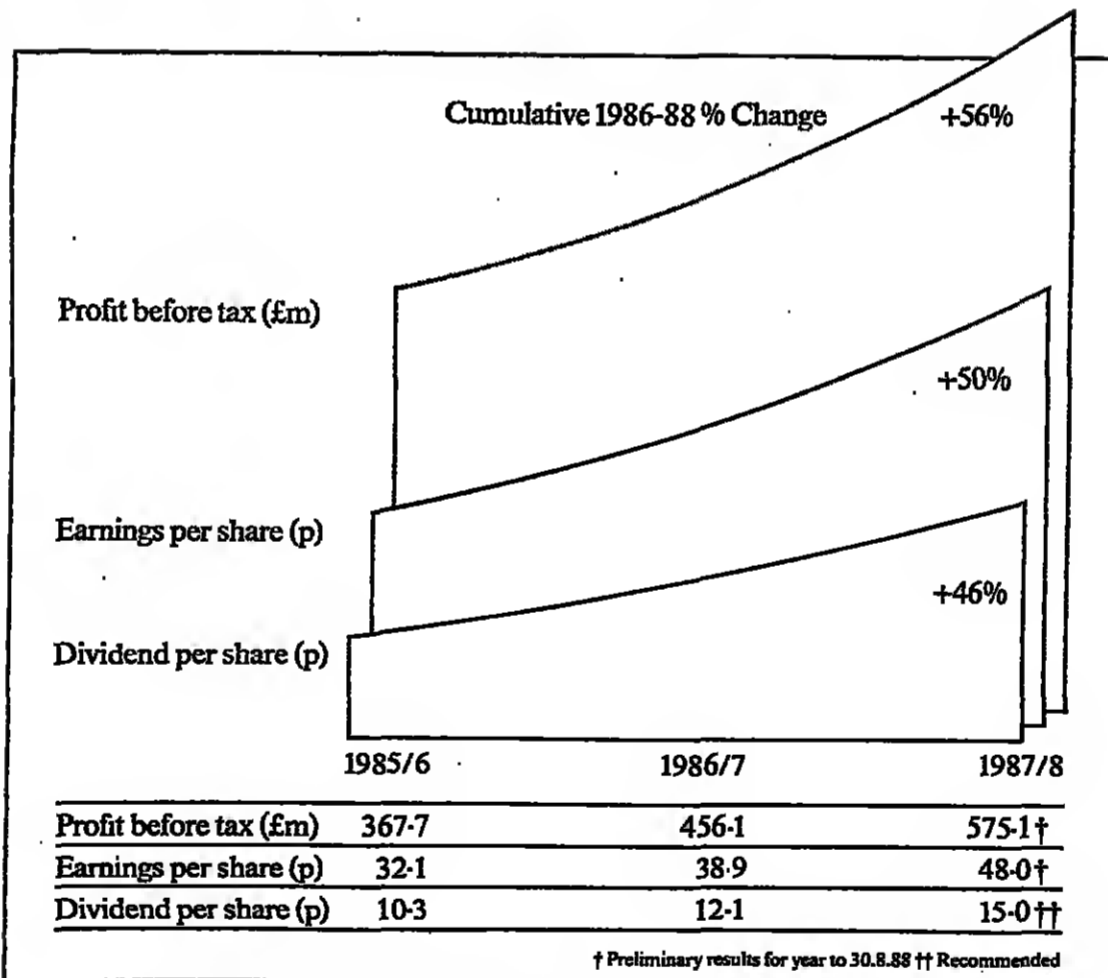
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE. 15% EXTRA. £199. MERCURY SMART BOX 10. The simplest and cheapest way of connecting your existing equipment to the Mercury Network.

Table with columns: Series, Call, Put, Series, Call, Put. Lists various companies and their option prices.

American Express Bank Gold Card Overdraft Account. With effect from 9 December 1988 the rate of interest applicable to American Express Bank Gold Card Overdraft accounts has been increased to 1.36 per cent per month.

Y. J. LOVELL (HOLDINGS) PLC. MAIN GROUP ACTIVITIES. Construction, Residential and Commercial Development and Plant Hire. Record Profits and Further Growth. PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT Results for the year ended 30th September, 1988.

Added value.




Yet another record year with profits growing 26%. Over the two year period since September 30th 1986 earnings per share increased by 50% and dividends per share by 46%. In the same period cumulative profits growth reached 56%.

Recent strategic and operational realignments have strongly positioned Grand Metropolitan to become one of the world's leading food, drinks and retailing companies.

Development will be balanced between Western Europe, North America and Japan/Far East based on strong brands, a first class property portfolio, robust cash generation and in-depth management excellence.

This powerful combination and clear strategy will continue adding value to Grand Metropolitan throughout the 1990s.

GRAND METROPOLITAN

....adding value 

ch to create
s at former
orean plants
ure Plant to
n USI flotat
National
Westmins
Bank PLI

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information, including columns for fund names, managers, and performance metrics.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of unlisted securities with columns for company names, prices, and other financial data.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust names, managers, and performance metrics.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading data.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices and market information.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for different currencies.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates and yields.

BULLION

Table of bullion prices for gold and silver.

COINS

Table of coin prices and specifications.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures prices.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including metals and energy.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London metal exchange prices.

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

Loans Bank Rates applied by Edel and Barclays Bank HOPEX

Rate supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Edel

Per coin (EX VAT)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Estimated carcass weight

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

01-481 4000 PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

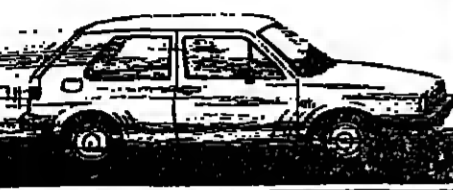
GENERAL

NEW CARS AT DISCOUNT PRICES

ALL MAKES IMMEDIATE DELIVERY NATIONWIDE SERVICE LEASING AND H.P. AT LOW RATES PART EXCHANGE WELCOME

No matter what make of vehicle you require, we can save you money and supply it virtually from stock. All cars delivered from U.K. dealers.

AUTOFLEET OF LONDON LTD TEL: 01 941 5288



HONDA 1988 F Honda Prelude EX...

VOLVO 740 TURBO ESTATE PETROL...

SIERRA Estate 2000GL...

PONTIAC GRAND AM...

VOLVO 760 GLE...

FORD ESCORT MEXICO...

VOLVO 740 TURBO ESTATE PETROL...

VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

1988 Renault Espace 2001...

EDWARDS OF STRATFORD F REG ROVER 827 VITSESS FASTBACK...

LOVEBAY FLEET SALES NEW CAR SPECIALISTS...

PEUGEOT 505 GR FAMILY AUTOMATIC ESTATE...

BMW AUTHORIZED DEALERS...

Hexagon 01-348 5151...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 700 GLE AUTO SALOON...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 700 GLE AUTO ESTATE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 740 TURBO INTERCOOLER ESTATE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

1988 (1987) VOLVO 760 GIE...

Burton & Deakin (Hayes) BMW...

1985 BMW, 635 CSI...

535i SE Auto, new shape, F Reg...

1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

BMW 325i auto 2 door...

750iL 1988 F reg, finished in Cream Blue...

BMW 635CIA Highline 1988 F reg, Lachs with Silver...

BMW 730i Automatic, EH box, 88 E...

NISSAN TARGA TURBO 1986 (E)...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

AUDI SIDLOW 1988 E AUDI 90 S...

ASTON MARTIN SALES LTD OFFER 1988 Aston Martin V8 Volante...

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

1988 E AUDI 90 S...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

CAR ACCESSORIES & SERVICES 041-637 6917

GEARBOX AND ENGINE SERVICES GLASGOW

"CAN PUT YOU IN THE FAST LANE" We can supply most makes of reconditioned petrol or Diesel gearboxes...

72 hour delivery period. No deposit required for any engines or Gearboxes...

Phone 041-637 6917 8am to 6pm 7 days per week for a free quotation

CAR & MOBILE PHONES WHEN IN ROOM, LONDON OR INTER-CITY KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW ETAC ROAMER 2000

The smallest portable Cellphone in the world! Compact, pocket size, lightweight with full systems facility...

Special introductory offer from International Mobile Phones For just £17.99 per week The Roamer 2000 is supplied complete with charges and spare battery...

FROM £29.99 NATIONAL CAR PHONES AND COMMUNICATIONS 021 643 9970 or (0902) 22405 061 834 5994 or 01 499 5090

INTRODUCING THE NEW ROAMER 2000 THE SMALLEST LIGHTWEIGHT ETACS PORTABLE IN THE WORLD

VOLKSWAGEN GREAT VALUE FOR MONEY The best incentive we can offer you! London's only Exclusive Showroom 116070

GOLF GTI 16V BLACK MET with chrome BLAKE MET/white/RS. DVE GREEN/white, PLS. DVE GREY/white, HELIX BLUE, power steering...

PASSAT 16 V. Delivery mileage. Torquato red, extras. Tel: 0850 542629 (Sunday) or 0242 222233 (Week) T.

NEW Audi 80 G2 E 1988 New Audi 80 G2 E 1988 New Audi 80 G2 E 1988 New Audi 80 G2 E 1988

RODDENS 0373 61762/63488

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

ASTON MARTIN SALES LTD OFFER

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

041-637 6917

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

BOUNDARY GARAGE Suppliers of prestige motor cars...

SHUKERS THE SOUTH SHROPSHIRE LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER CENTRE...

RODDENS 1988 E reg, Black, 6,000mils...

U.S. CONNECTION All makes and models of American cars...

ASTON MARTIN Volante range. F registered September 88...

FERRARI TESTAROSSA 1984, red, immaculate. Black leather...

RS COSWORTH Sapphire Crystal blue, 8 mtrs old...

ASTRA GTE 16 VALVE. Finished in Glacier White...

Mercedes 280 SL Sports 1970 One of the last of production...

Mercedes 300 Saloon 1958, Automatic, LHD. Injection model...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

Mercedes Benz 350 SL private owner. Only 15,600 miles since new...

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

MOTORS LEASING

CARS ON FINANCE

Any model available on low cost CONTRACT HIRE... with or without our fully insured maintenance program...

Table with columns for car models (Ford Escort, Ford Escort XR3i, Ford Vauxhall Astra, etc.) and weekly lease amounts.

Table for 'LEASE HIRE PURCHASE' with models like Peugeot 309 GTI, Cavalier SRi, and Astra 16 Valve.

SAVE £££'s with LYNX BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS... VEHICLE CONTRACTS: LEASE, CONTRACT HIRE, LEASE HIRE PURCHASE...

ON THE ROAD PRICES INCLUDING DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES... Contract hire quotes based on 3 months rental and 35 payments.

AUSTIN ROVER... LONDON'S ROVER 800 SPECIALISTS FOR ALL YOUR AUSTIN ROVER REQUIREMENTS...

DOUGLAS GRAHAMS... 01 675 0241... FOUR WHEEL DRIVE... HARTWELLS OF OXFORD LTD... 1987 D RANGE ROVER VOGUE EFI AUTO...

RANGE ROVER 1988... Vauxhall Astra 1.3L, 5 door... 1987 E RANGE ROVER VOGUE EFI MANUAL...

PORSCHE

PORSCHE 928S4 August 87, Manual, Air cond. Leather, Burgundy...

1988 (F) PORSCHE 911 CLUB SPORT... Clear lightweight model. White with black trim...

1986 PORSCHE 928 S2 AUTO... Burgundy, Sunroof, air con. H-4 pack, 30,000 miles...

PORSCHE WANTED... ALL PORSCHES... 911 Carrera Sport, 1986, D Reg...

JAGUAR & DAIMLER... CONVERTIBLE XJS V12... 1988 E, 4 door, 2000 cc, 5 speed...

XJRS... The most prestigious one in the world. Number 1 is now on offer...

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 3.6 AUTO... 87 cc. 4 speed, 1000 cc, 5 speed...

PORSCHE 911 TURBO... White Reg 1986, 2170 cc, 1800 miles...

JAGUAR XJ6... F registered, 3 months ago. Black leather on the clock...

DAIMLER 3.6... 88 IE, Auto, 4 door, 2000 cc, 5 speed...

JAGUAR XJS 3.6... F Reg, 1988. Silver, 2000 miles...

LAMBORGHINI... 1988 E, 4 door, 2000 cc, 5 speed... 1987 E, 4 door, 2000 cc, 5 speed...

COLLECTORS CARS... JENSEN INTERCEPTOR... 1975, J series, brown with beige vinyl roof...

COLLECTORS CARS

JENSEN INTERCEPTOR... 1975, J series, brown with beige vinyl roof...

BENTLEY MULSANNE TURBO... December 84, Vennell with black Connors...

BENTLEY T2... 1980, 108,000 miles which completely belies its outstanding condition...

SILVER SHADOW II... 1980, Caribbean blue, full service history, 12k & MOT...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY WANTED... WANTED - Shadow II with FSH...

ROYAL NEPAL AIRLINES CORPORATION GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation, Kathmandu, Nepal invites tenders for the sale of its two HS-748 Series 2A Model 253 Turbo Propeller Aircraft...

Table with columns for aircraft registration, date of manufacture, and hours/cycles as of 14.10.88.

FOR SALE... Holiday chalet park - East Anglian Coast. 10.4 acres. Gross income £115,000 p.a.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES... IN PARLIAMENT 9 DECEMBER 1988-89... BRITISH RAILWAYS...

BRITISH RAILWAYS... NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that applications to be made to Parliament in the present Session for the British Railways Bill (the "Bill") for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for purposes of the following is a concise summary...

Geographical advertisement for 'George' featuring a map and contact information for 'CIT COMMUNICATIONS' and 'THE FAX WA...'.

GOLF: WORLD CUP PROVIDES THE STAGE FOR NATIONS TO BECOME UNITED IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

Defence at a dawdle for the Welsh

From John Woodcock Melbourne This is meant to be about Wales (David Llewellyn and Mark Woodland) and may finish up more as an eulogy of Switzerland (Karim Baradie and Helmut Schmucker).

good to Llewellyn. If Woosnam's absence saddened Llewellyn, he was not alone in that, and Moulard stood in well for the little champion.

themselves without it occurring to them that it is in the least bit difficult. I have never had a young coddle in Australia, because there are no such things. But Moulard came back in par, despite a six on his card.

his first name suggests, he is not of exclusively Swiss extraction. But he arrived there as a boy of six, which makes him just as Swiss as a lot of Australians are, let alone Englishmen, challenging for places in their Test sides.

at Royal Calcutta, when the dhole is laid out in the sun. How ironic, too, in view of the cancellation of England's cricket tour to India, that bracketed at the head of yesterday's field, albeit briefly, should be India and England.

STUDENT SPORT

Wales squander chances in their defence of title

By Mark Herbert

Wales, the champions, moved into the quarter-finals of the British polytechnic rugby union championships without fuss, beating Portsmouth 16-0 at home. The only worry for the champions was the way that they squandered chances in the second half.

The domination of the Wales forwards earned the win. A strike against the head by Ticombe gave the flanker Tudor, supporting his scrum half, a try from close range. Hill, a prop, latched on to an elaborate handling move among the backs to score a second.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Wellington falter in final encounter

By Michael Stevenson

Wellington (Berks), after an impressive season, stumbled in the final hurdle against Marlborough, losing the match (6-13) and their unbeaten record.

Marlborough's fortunes were reversed against Egham in a floodlit match at Beckenham on Wednesday, Egham winning 10-7. Marlborough led 4-0 at half-time through a try by their scrum half, Marcott, but Egham used the wind meter better in the second half, victory coming through tries from Campbell and Hughes, the first converted by Campbell. Yates kicked a penalty goal for the losers.

The success enjoyed by Dinington CS (Rotherham) is even more remarkable considering they also field four hockey and four football teams every Saturday. They have won 12 out of 12 games, scoring 545 and conceding only 40 points.

Cheltenham relinquished their unbeaten record in a 18-4 loss to Marlborough. The victory was comprised of penalties to a try. Cheltenham rebounded with victory over Sherborne (17-15), having trailed 7-15; the win came through a pushover try and a late try and conversion with the last of the match.

The Ley's, Cambridge, having lost only to Oakham, found unheated Gresham's in commanding form, which brought victory (24-9). Their flanker, Stingsone scored two tries.

Egham, after narrow defeat by Sedburgh (7-4) gained a notable victory against Darham (13-20) on their short Northern tour. Egham were 13-4 down at half-time. But, after good defence, a flurry of points brought success.

The Divisional Court had reversed them, because on their finding of fact - which included that the point of a dart, discharged a few inches from plywood 5/32nds of an inch thick, would penetrate it - it was quite impossible to deny that that was a weapon which, when missed, was capable of causing an injury from which death might result.

Montgomery proves a shrewd investment in emotive atmosphere

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Melbourne

It is said that Royal Melbourne is a course designed for a true champion, so Colin Montgomery was entitled to feel elated following his round of 69 here in the World Cup of Golf.

Montgomery switched to the professional ranks little more than a year ago, so he deserves considerable praise for compiling his score on such a difficult course and in such an emotive atmosphere without conceding a shot to par.

In so doing, Montgomery guided Scotland, for whom the more experienced Gordon Brand Jr took 71, into a challenging position on an opening day when Japan seized the lead by one shot from New Zealand, Spain and the United States.

Montgomery achieved that and he played effectively enough in the Volvo Order of Merit at the precise moment when the World Cup teams were selected. So with Lyle opting not to compete, Montgomery completed a remarkably quick transition from the Walker Cup to the World Cup.

Such is Montgomery's determination to succeed that in the one month between competing in the Volvo Masters, in Spain, and flying to Australia, he spent hour upon hour each day of the week hitting shots in the cold Scottish air while Billy Lockie, the professional at Kilmarnock (Barassie), looked on.

trip to the tailors, to ensure that he was indeed ready to give his best for Scotland. That Montgomery achieved all that he desired by virtue of collecting three birdies, two of them at par fives, showed without doubt his ability to compete under the severest of pressure. So the Sunningdale stockbrokers who chose to form a consortium and invest in Montgomery have proved that their eye for a golfer is as sharp as their ability to interpret the stockmarket.

The composite course at Royal Melbourne represents a fascinating challenge and it is, according to Peter Williams, the superintendent who has been working here for 27 years, always set up in the best possible way to extract a true winner. It is a fine example of the work of Alistair MacKenzie, and so naturally some people were disappointed to hear Jack Nicklaus, on playing it for the first time last week, refer to Royal Melbourne as being a good member's course.

Out in the open: Cho Sang Ho, of South Korea, escapes from the trees at Royal Melbourne



Conditions favour Varnam Auckland (New Zealand) - James Varnam, of New Zealand, profited from the day's best conditions to shoot a five-under-par 65 in the first round of the Auckland Open tournament at Titirangi yesterday.

Varnam, playing in the morning when the greens were still damp from overnight rain, was one shot clear of the Australian, Ian Stanley, also an early starter. Another Australian, Peter Fowler, carded a 67, followed by the former US Open champion, Hale Irwin, who was tied with the Australians, Ossie Moore and Jeff Woodland, on 68.

House of Lords

Back-calculation of alcohol level admissible

Gumbley v Cunningham Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry [Speeches December 8]

Where the defendant, more than four hours after driving, provided a specimen of blood the alcohol concentration of which was below the prescribed limit, the prosecution evidence obtained by back-calculation was admissible to show that at the time of driving his blood-alcohol concentration would have exceeded the limit.

Law Report December 9 1988

Referring to meaning of 'reckless'

Regina v Barber Judges and practitioners considering the meaning of "reckless" in section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 should make reference to paragraph 19-340 and not to paragraph 17-25 of Archbold Criminal Pleading Evidence & Practice (43rd edn) (1988) vol 2. If that were to be done the difficulties of fitting the Road Traffic Act direction into the Criminal Damage Act would not arise.

Accordingly, medical evidence had been called, which had been unchallenged, and it had established: (i) that the defendant, who at the material time had been aged 44 and of average height and muscular build weighing some 11 stone, had been in good physical condition;

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

No evidence that air rifle was able to be fired

Grace v DPP Before Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Auld [Judgment November 24] In the absence of actual evidence that a particular air rifle was both one from which any shot could be fired or one which could be adapted so as to fire a shot - and "a lethal barrelled weapon" within the meaning of section 57 of the Firearms Act 1968, a person in possession of it could not be held to be in possession of a firearm for the purposes of that Act.

The House had pointed out that it was for Parliament, not the courts, to close the loophole through which a driver had been able to escape. Section 1(1) of the 1967 Act had been substantially re-enacted in section 6(1) of the 1972 Act. It had not been until some 10 years after Royal Indemnity that specific statutory provision had been made to close that loophole. By virtue of Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, section 6(1) of the 1972 Act now provided: "If a person - (a) drives or attempts to drive a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, or (b) is in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place, after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in his breath, blood or urine exceeds the prescribed limit he shall be guilty of an offence."

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

No evidence that air rifle was able to be fired

appellant and his son had been found in possession of an air rifle, which he said he had that day bought, in a motor car on a private road. There was no evidence that it had ever been fired and no ammunition was found.

The questions for the court were (a) whether it was open to the justices to convict in the absence of any expert evidence that that air rifle was "a lethal barrelled weapon" and if so (b) whether it had been open to them to convict on the evidence before them.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

No evidence that air rifle was able to be fired

Mr John Morris, QC and Mr Dominic Roberts for the defendant, Mr Martin Wilson, QC and Mr Roger D. H. Smith for the prosecution.

LORD ACKNER said that the defendant had been involved in an accident at about 11.15pm on May 7, 1985. At 3.35am, at a hospital, he had provided a specimen of blood for analysis, which had revealed a concentration of not less than 59mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood.

RUGBY UNION

Australian referee is given charge of four home unions

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Kerry Fitzgerald, the Brisbane bank official who refereed the World Cup final last year in Auckland, is Australia's appointment this season to the two five nations' championship matches regularly offered to the southern hemisphere. He will handle Scotland v Ireland on March 4 and Wales v England on March 18...

Hall torn between gown and country

By Gerald Davies

It would appear to be a recurring scenario whereby, as one season follows another, the Welsh Rugby Union selects a drop-in player as highlighted this week when Mike Hall, the Cambridge University centre, was told that he would not play for Wales if he appeared in the University match...

Getting a kick out of Pears

By Michael Stevenson

It was one particular match that focused the attention of English rugby followers upon a Cambrian village and its youthful son, George Duggart, the scrum half, and his partner, David Pears, aged 19, arranged a welcome for the Wasps in their new stadium...

Ringland may miss final Irish trial

Trevor Ringland's place in the final Irish trial tomorrow, week end at Lansdowne Road is in jeopardy (George Ace writes). Ringland also misses Ballymena's trip to Dublin tomorrow for the game against Old Wesley.

SKIING: CONDITIONS FAVOUR START TO DOWNHILL EVENT AFTER LONG DELAY



Setting a white-hot pace: Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, who has already stamped his class on the World Cup season

Austria await an heir apparent

Austrians to speak in hushed tones. Too often in the past they have seen their hopes dashed. But Rzehak, aged 18, and with a Czechoslovakian name is different: Even the great man himself regards Rzehak as the next Klammer. A boy entrusted with a man's task of restoring the nation's dignity in the discipline they covet.

England aim to show consistency in batting

From Carol Salmon, Melbourne

England will need to bat consistently if they are to claim the honours against Australia in the first match against Australia. The England coach, Ruih. Pridoux, said. Her side lost by 126 runs after crumbling 84 for eight in 60 overs.

Sin-bin may be given the red card

By Keith Macklin

The days of the sin-bin may be numbered following this week's pronouncements by Fred Lindop, the first rugby league full-time controller of referees. The sin-bin was introduced on New Year's Eve 1983, among nations mourning criticism that players use it as a cover for deliberate foul-play, while referees lean on it as a means of avoiding the trauma of a sending-off.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sin-bin may be given the red card

The days of the sin-bin may be numbered following this week's pronouncements by Fred Lindop, the first rugby league full-time controller of referees. The sin-bin was introduced on New Year's Eve 1983, among nations mourning criticism that players use it as a cover for deliberate foul-play, while referees lean on it as a means of avoiding the trauma of a sending-off.

SWIMMING

Croft will not cover for sick Mellor

By Steven Downes

Caps were beginning to appear in the British team on the eve of the Sun Life European Cup, which begins in the Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh, today. In the week after the team was announced, Isaac Hill, Maggie Holman and Grant Robbs pulled out of the Great Britain team, although a replacement was readily available in each case.

Yet Croft made it clear yesterday that she had no desire to sacrifice herself to the demands of, possibly, two 800-metre swims today in addition to her setbacks. Britain had an excellent opportunity to shine before the television cameras at this two-day meeting, which was awarded to Edinburgh in celebration of the Scottish A's centenary.

The picture in the women's competition is less clear because the holders, East Germany, have named a youthful squad. Even without any of their individual medal-winners from Seoul, they can still call upon a world champion (Kornelia Gressler) and two European junior champions (Daniela Brendel and Grit Nitschler).

CRICKET

Imran doubtful for first Cup game

Adelaide (Reuter) - The Pakistan captain, Imran Khan, has been injured two days before the start of the World Series Cup on Saturday when his team play West Indies at the Adelaide Oval.

ROWING

Lees has fair bit of work to do

By Jim Railton

The boat clubs of Oxford and Cambridge universities have entered a professional rowing age. Last year Oxford employed Olympic coach, Steve Royle, as director of Oxford University Boat Club and this year Cambridge have taken on Mark Lees as full-time professional chief coach.

BOWLS

Changes made by Middlesex

Middlesex have made changes for their match against Cardiff in the second round of the Liberty Trophy tomorrow (Gordon Allan writes).

HOCKEY

East send two teams

By Joyce Whitehead

The All England Women's Hockey Association is organizing the under-18 club championship, with the finals being held on Sunday at Ashton Playing Fields, Chiswell Road, Woodford Bridge.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated FOOTBALL: NPS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Wigan v Macclesfield. RUGBY UNION: CLUB MATCHES: Ebbw Vale v Llanelli (7.0); Aneurin v Pontypridd (7.15); Newport v Swansea (7.15). OTHER SPORT: SNOOKERS: World Match Play championship (Brampton). SWIMMING: Europa Cup (Edinburgh). TRY THIS: Paul Maher's suggestion for a sporting day out.

Advertisement for 'Blanc' featuring a large image of a woman's face and text including 'Blanc', 'A consultation prize for British women', and 'TRY THIS'.

THE TIMES SPORT tomorrow...

Eight pages of the best of the action at home and overseas

In colour: Harvey Smith, show jumping's man apart

The Great Derbies: memories from the Mersey

Irresistible force: the West Indian juggernaut rolls on

Racing and the whip: the jockeys meet the Jockey Club

TCCB decides that Hick will have to wait

POINT-BY-POINT GUIDE TO TCCB CHANGES

By Alan Lee Cricket Correspondent

Graeme Hick, the most gifted young batsman in the world today, must, after all, wait until 1991 before playing for England...

danger of losing its identity. Frustrating though it must be for Hick, who has never stooped to pleading his case in public...

had met Smith in London on Monday and spelled out the strength of feeling among their membership. A compromise, suggested by Yorkshire and Surrey...

from the home team in a championship match when a surface is deemed unsuitable. On the face of it, this is a savage penalty...

revising the county programme as urged by both Peter May and Micky Stewart last season. It has been agreed that the intended three-year experiment with a limited number of four-day matches will be completed...

England qualification No change to the seven-year qualification period for England. The board is determined that as far as possible, both county cricket and Test cricket will be played by England-born players...

South Africa A special meeting on January 19 will debate the South African issue, hearing recommendations from the international and executive committees. Selectors A working party has been set up to assess the future format of any Test selection panel...

hour during next summer's Ashes series. Substitutions on the field for five overs has been modified so that umpires can arbitrate and allow an immediate substitute if there is an obvious and serious injury...

Clubs have an ace up their sleeve in ID card game

By Dennis Shaw

The Government is to be presented with a revised membership scheme early in the new year by the football administrators who have to implement it...

clubs, supporters' clubs and the like. A combined statement said: "This association believes that the Government proposal to control admission to football matches is unnecessary and will create major problems more serious than those it hopes to solve..."

we can't block it then we have a scheme which is practicable, compared to one which is totally unworkable." He understood that the unusual step was being taken of introducing the legislation to the Lords before the Commons...



Net loss: Flach, who in partnership with Seguso tasted defeat in the Masters doubles tournament at the Albert Hall

Californians add masterly touch

By Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, the Wimbledon and Olympic champions, have played five hours and 44 minutes of tennis in less than 19 hours in the Nabisco Masters doubles tournament at the Albert Hall...

them and only one match to play in the all-play-all series. Flach and Seguso have little hope of qualifying for the semi-finals, though the four sets they have won could be useful if the statistics come down to decimals...

Looking ahead, the 1989 Stella Artois championships at Queen's Club may have to compete - for players, that is - not only with the Scottish championships in Edinburgh but also with a new grass-court event in the Netherlands...

year has been "encouraging and exciting". Did we miss something? In general, this has been an encouraging and exciting year only for Britain's opponents. To pretend otherwise is to brush a load of rubbish under the carpet and direct attention to the carpet rather than the lumps...



She'll never know whose £3 saved her life...

Three pounds. That's all it costs to immunise her against TB, measles, polio, whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria. Yet every moment she's left unprotected she's in danger of becoming one of the fifteen children who are disabled, blinded or killed by these diseases every minute...

Save the Children Fund. FREEPOST, London SE5 8NR. YES I'll help a child this Christmas. Please accept my gift of £50 £30 £10 £5 (please state) or detail my account Visa Access American Express Diners Club. Credit Card number: [] Please show me how you can turn every £1 that I give into £1.33. Signature: [] Name: [] Address: [] Postcode: [] Save the Children Fund, Dept BB00104, FREEPOST, London SE5 8NR.

League tie screening may move

Independent television could avoid upsetting Bobby Robson, the England manager, by screening the League tie between Liverpool and Arsenal a week before England's World Cup game with Albania rather than three days beforehand as provisionally planned (Louise Taylor writes)...

Dispute over finances sours match build-up

A financial misunderstanding has soured the build-up to Romania's rugby union international against Wales in Cardiff tomorrow. Barry Michael, the WRU liaison officer, said, "We are not sure if money had been paid at all..."

Blacklist TV row

Swedish television is to defy pressure from its monitoring body and broadcast the Davis Cup final between Sweden and West Germany. Boris Becker is on the UN blacklist. Coverage of the final in Gothenburg from December 16 to 18 was thrown into doubt last week when the Broadcasting Council objected to the screening of the semi-final against France...

Pyatt chance

The promoter, Frank Warren, is trying to line up a world title bout for Chris Pyatt and George Collins. He has put in an offer to the management of the world light-middleweight champion, Robert Hines, to defend his crown against Pyatt in Britain in February...

Carter in team

Paul Carter, the surprise winner of the InterCity national squash rackets championships last week, is included in the England team to defend the Home International title in Dublin next month. ENGLAND: A Benson (Northampton), P Carter (Herts), O Harris (Essex), N Harvey (Essex), J Hocking (Surrey), G Williams (Sussex).

Bailey says no

Rick Bailey has turned down an invitation to become Britain's swimming team manager next year. Bailey, the City of Birmingham coach, guided Nick Gillingham to a silver medal in Seoul.

END COLUMN

Elsworth fine gets guarded reaction

By John Dorman

The racing world may have felt strongly about the Elsworth affair but it gave all the appearances of carrying on as normal yesterday; a quick comment about David Elsworth and the record fine imposed on him the previous day was enough; the main business of the day was preparing, riding and betting on the horses...

Sympathy from racing public

Brendan Powell, who completed a Tanotus treble on Wonder Bee, stayed at Elsworth's stable on Wednesday night. Powell said the trainer did not mention the subject; neither did Powell. One travelling head lad, who preferred not to be named, said Elsworth should have been banned. But the general reaction from the racing public was much more sympathetic. "Mnch too severe" was a typical comment. "The Jockey Club should have been more lenient..."